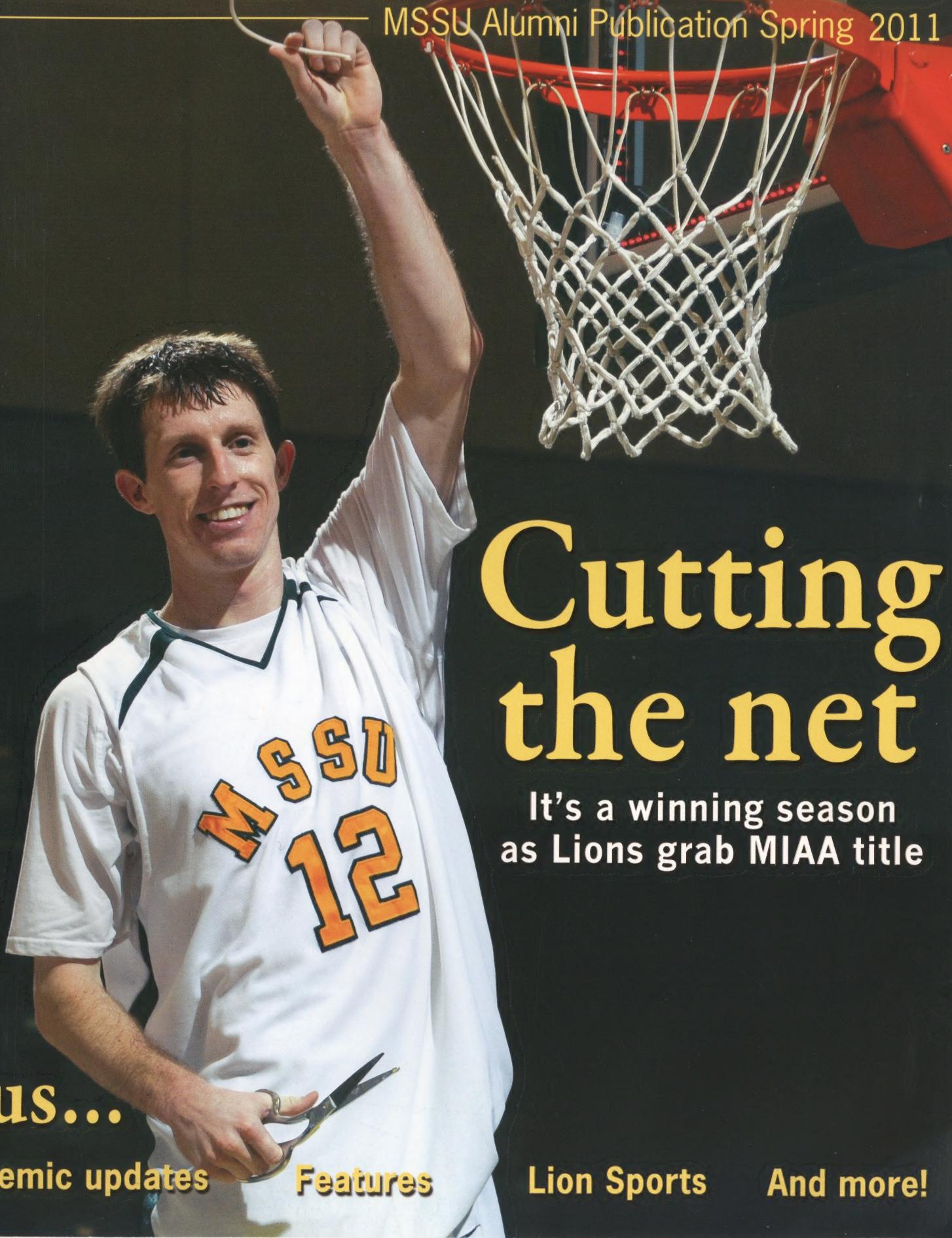


# crossroads

MSSU Alumni Publication Spring 2011



## Cutting the net

It's a winning season  
as Lions grab MIAA title

Plus...

Academic updates

Features

Lion Sports

And more!

# crossroads contents



## spring 2011

### STRICTLY BUSINESS

Marketing students gain experience ..... 7

### EDUCATING LIONS FROM BIRTH

Campus expands childcare facilities ..... 10

### CULTURE COMFORTS

Spanish instructor inspires students ..... 13

### ON TOUR

Students take their music on the road ..... 15

### DANCIN' IN BRANSON

Alumni find entertainment success ..... 17

### Q&A

Alumnus works on career in film ..... 19

### TOURING LONDON

Theatre instructor teaches abroad ..... 20

### GAME CHANGER

Accident causes a new outlook on life ... 21

### RISING TO THE TOP

Coach Corn inspires excellence from his players on and off the court ..... 27

### WINNING TRADITION

Bahamas native pushed to success ..... 29

### ROAR OF A LION

Kevin Greim keeps listeners involved and in touch on game day ..... 32

### MULTIFACETED

Alumnus excels in use of new media ..... 36

### LARRY TO LARS

Student begins wrestling career ..... 37

### JOINING THE PRIDE

Freshmen learn secrets to success ..... 39

### LION TALES

Photography hobby leads to a career for a Missouri Southern alumnus ..... 42

### CAMPUS NEWS

Foundation update ..... 4-5

Southern News ..... 41

Class Notes ..... 46

### ACADEMIC UPDATES

International update ..... 6

School of Education ..... 9

School of Arts and Sciences ..... 12

### on the cover

Men's Basketball ..... 23-26

Lion sports ..... 27-34

Academic updates ..... 6-9, 12

Features ..... 13-22, 36-38

*Senior guard Skyler Bowlin cuts the net after the Lions win the MIAA regular-season title game on February 23, 2011, at MSSU. Photo by Mike Gullett; illustration by Andrew Pavlovic, '11.*

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**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

**crossroads** magazine is the official alumni publication of the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association. The mission is to serve its readers by providing information of interest about the University, its alumni and the Alumni Association and by acting as a channel for Missouri Southern alumni as a "connection for life" with the University.

**crossroads** magazine is published two times a year by the Missouri Southern State University Alumni Association and the Department of Communication. It is mailed to current MSSU Alumni Association members and friends of the University. A select number of copies are distributed on campus each semester.

**crossroads** is written and designed by faculty, staff, students and alumni. The views expressed do not represent the student body, faculty, staff, administration or Missouri Southern State University.

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## Greetings MSSU Alumni!



It seems like just yesterday when I sat down to write the column for the fall issue. So much has happened at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center since our last issue.

"Dress the House" was an idea to help provide needed items for the Mansion. This project exploded from a one-day, two-hour event to an outpouring of alumni and friends coming forward with beautiful heirlooms of silver, china and linens to get us started. See our fall 2011 issue for a listing of contributions and ways to help.

The unprecedented "blizzard of 2011" brought a halt to a few of our events, so mark your calendars for the rescheduled Legacy Day on September 10, 2011.

We've also been extremely busy developing a new Web page with the enhanced use of Facebook and LinkedIn. If you are "tech savvy," please join us online.

And finally, we're working on a book to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Missouri Southern. Do you have a story to tell or know of someone who has a great tale to share? Please call or email me your story. This book is the perfect way for us all to share our memories and legacies with current and future Lions. As always, we look forward to hearing from you and keeping in touch.

In Lion Pride,

Lee Elliff Pound, '86  
Alumni Director

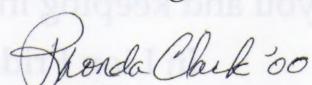
Every semester, at least one student asks, "Where did the name *Crossroads* come from?"

First, a little background. *Crossroads* began in 1939 as the yearbook for the young Joplin Junior College. As the college grew, so did the yearbook. In 1993, the last yearbook hit the campus of Missouri Southern State College. Interest in the college yearbook had waned, and it became a student magazine, *Crossroads: The Magazine*. It remained a student publication until the Missouri Southern State University alumni magazine evolved in 2006.

Now, back to the name. The answer can be found in that first issue of the yearbook on a page called Bulletin Board. A short brief stated that Joan Epperson received \$1 for submitting the winning entry in a naming contest. She chose *Crossroads* for its double meaning. In the 1930s, Joplin was called the Crossroads of America, and junior college represented the crossroads in the life of a student.

We still see that double meaning today, as several of our staff graduate this spring at the new "crossroads" in their lives. They leave knowing they were part of a legacy and heritage that has stood strong for more than 70 years. Its original purpose may have changed, but *Crossroads* is still a record of the past, present and future of Southern.

Warm regards,



Rhonda Clark, '00,  
**crossroads** Editor,  
Assistant Professor, Communication

### **crossroads**

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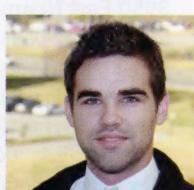
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Mass Communications

# New biology lab funding under way

One of the exciting things about the work of the Foundation is that we have the privilege of helping create opportunities for the students of Missouri Southern State



University. In the past, Foundation fundraising has been instrumental in the remodeling of the Spiva Library, the new Beimdiek Recreation Center and the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Now we are facing another challenge and exciting opportunity that can help make MSSU a leader in biology and environmental health education.

Located in Reynolds Hall, the biology and environmental health department supports approximately 380 majors, and it's growing. The challenge is that the department long ago outgrew its space and lab facilities in Reynolds Hall. Fortunately, University planning has determined space recently vacated in Ummel Technology, thanks to the opening of the Health Sciences Building, can be redesigned to meet this critical campus need.

It is easy to see that the new facility will be a great asset for biology majors and for pre-professional students who will become doctors, veterinarians, pharmacists and more. A much broader audience also will benefit, however. Dr. Crystal Lemmons, department head, said almost 900 students will use the new facility in any given academic year because all students in biomedical fields need the technology that will be housed in Ummel. This includes students in programs such as nursing, dental hygiene, medical technology and kinesiology, to name a few. And further demonstrating the need for the new labs is the fact that the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that demand for workers in these fields will continue to increase through 2025. The renovated facility will help place MSSU students on the cutting edge and set them on the path to successful careers thanks to a number of new features that are planned, including a cadaver lab, two anatomy and physiology labs and a human physiology lab. These state-of-the art labs will complement the Health Sciences Building at MSSU and will further contribute to our leadership in the health sciences and allied health fields.

The Foundation is launching a campaign to help offset a portion of the costs for the remodeling, construction and equipment for the east wing of Ummel, which are estimated at approximately \$1.2 million. A task force has been established to lead the effort, and we'll be working over the next

## Renovation of Ummel Hall

### Task Force Members

AJ Anglin, Ph.D.

Grace Ayton, M.S.N.

Elizabeth Barlet, M.D., '84

Nathan Box, D.O., '01

Linda Dean, R.N., '78

Jim Jackson, Ph.D.

Crystal Lemmons, D.V.M.

Larry McIntire, D.O.

Richard Miller, Ph.D.

Tia Strait, Ed.D., '85 & '93

### Naming Opportunities

Cadaver Lab	\$125,000
Anatomy & Physiology Labs (2)	\$100,000
Biology Lab Endowment	\$100,000
Human Physiology Lab	\$ 75,000
Student Study Room	\$ 50,000
Anatomy & Physiology Lab Prep Room	\$ 50,000
Conference Room	\$ 25,000
Offices (2)	\$ 15,000

few months to raise funds for this project. The University is pleased to announce several naming opportunities for major gifts and pledges directed to this project, which are highlighted above. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and will make a difference for our students.

If you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity, please send your gifts to the Missouri Southern Foundation, and include "Ummel Renovation" on the memo line, or contact the Foundation to receive a pledge form that can be fulfilled over a three-year period.

Thank you for your consideration of this exciting opportunity.

— Dr. Mark Parsons, Vice President for Development and Executive Director, Missouri Southern Foundation

# Plaster Foundation pledges gifts for sports complex

The Robert W. Plaster Foundation has pledged two substantial seven-figure gifts to the Missouri Southern Foundation. The gifts, which represent the largest contribution ever made to the Foundation, will be used to help fund the construction of a baseball field and a multipurpose athletic facility adjacent to the football field and to renovate Fred G. Hughes Stadium.

Plaster, who was an accounting student at Joplin Junior College in the 1950s, was known as an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. He formed Empire Gas Corporation in Lebanon, Missouri, and before his death in 2008, he made significant contributions to educational institutions across the region at Crowder College, College of the Ozarks, Missouri State University, Southwest Baptist University and Missouri Southern. The Robert W. Plaster Foundation carries on his philanthropic interests.

In recognition of these contributions, the MSSU Board of Governors approved a resolution to name the southeast corner of the Southern campus, which encompasses many of the athletic facilities, the Robert W. Plaster Sports Complex. In the future, providing additional funding is secured for a major renovation, Fred G. Hughes Stadium will become known as the Robert W. Plaster Stadium. Until such time, it will remain Fred G. Hughes Stadium.

"Mr. Hughes played a pivotal role in the creation of the University," said Rod Anderson, '76, chair of the Board of Governors. "I know there was tremendous consideration given before recommending a potential change in the name of the stadium. It's important that people know he will continue to be honored on this campus, as he should be."

The stadium at Missouri Southern was named the Fred G. Hughes Stadium in 1978 in commemoration of his role in the creation of the University and his service on the original Board of Trustees and Regents. While a number of options can be developed, one alternative naming opportunity being considered for Hughes is naming an entrance plaza connected to the renovated football stadium in his honor.

"The plaza would keep him connected to football and would provide the opportunity to tell his story in a manner that would be



*Above, an artist rendering shows an aerial view of the proposed Robert W. Plaster Sports Complex on the southeast corner of the MSSU campus. Right, a rendering shows the proposed Fred G. Hughes Plaza, to be built in conjunction with the renovation of the football stadium.* — Courtesy photo



easily accessible to anyone near the stadium through biographical tributes included in the plaza," said Dr. Mark Parsons, vice president for development and executive director of the Foundation.

"Efforts to secure a lead gift for these projects have been ongoing for years," said Dr. Bruce Speck, MSSU president. "We are thrilled with these contributions in honor of one of our former students, and we want to thank the trustees of the Robert W. Plaster Foundation. We are deeply appreciative of their generosity. They have made it possible for us to plan and execute fundraising campaigns for these major projects."

Jared Bruggeman, athletics director, said a committee has been formed to guide fundraising efforts for the baseball field, with the goal of having the team playing on campus by 2013. A similar committee will be formed for the multipurpose building, which will include support facilities for football, track,

baseball and softball. The football stadium campaign will begin at a later date once the baseball field and multipurpose facility are completed.

These gifts mark an important step in strategic planning that began several years ago. In 2005, Dr. Julio León, then MSSU president, created a Stadium Strategic Plan Committee. In 2006, the committee, chaired by then Athletics Director Sallie Beard, '72, recommended the construction of a multipurpose facility and renovation of both the west and east stands at the stadium. In 2007, a stadium master plan was completed by the same committee as a follow-up to that report. This was a multiphased plan that included the multipurpose building, stadium renovation and an on-campus baseball field.

"We wanted to think big, yet set a flexible plan that could be adjusted as necessary and implemented over time," said Beard.

— Missouri Southern Foundation

# Alumni find success working abroad

Several Missouri Southern graduates who were inspired by the international mission are either working abroad or conducting business in other countries.

Ben Pantzlaff, '10, who graduated with



degrees in international business and Spanish, works for the commodity management firm Gavilon in Omaha, Nebraska. Pantzlaff is in the export documentation department and exports such products as Distillers Dried Grain with Solubles and CGM Corn Gluten Meal to Southeast Asia.

"I am very excited about what I am doing because I am working with brokers and customers from all over the world," Pantzlaff said. "MSSU's international mission was a principle factor in the step toward my degrees and ultimately the job that I have now."

Pantzlaff said he couldn't have landed a job at Gavilon without the Certified Global Business Professional review course from Chris Moos, assistant professor of international business.

"With a foundation built by MSSU's International Business program, I was able to pass the CGBP exam," he said. "The passing of this exam and the wealth of knowledge I gained

from MSSU's splendid staff of instructors coincides directly to the job I have secured today."

Jonathan BeVille, '04, earned a communications degree and parlayed the international experience and exposure he received into a business career abroad. BeVille is managing director for Flanders EMEA (Europe, Middle East, Africa), the Dutch subsidiary of the North Carolina-based Flanders Corporation, which manufactures air-filtration systems. He lives in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and is responsible for advancing Flanders' market share outside the U.S. through sales, the development of distributor networks, and building relationships with engineering consultants.

"I was fortunate at Southern to participate

in study abroad programs in Paris and Austria that not only introduced me to those parts of the world but also to speakers, panelists, and instructors with a wealth of international experience," BeVille said.

Mark Shryock, '01, a general studies major, has been a professor of English at Kangnang Wonju National University in South Korea for four years. In addition to teaching 14 to 16 hours per semester, Shryock consults on writing and curriculum design throughout Asia. Recently, he spent two months in India helping to design a new international day-residential school.

Shryock said attending the 2000 International Media Seminar in Paris was "life-changing" in several respects.

"It took me to my first foreign soil, and after that I realized it was possible to travel," he said. "Once the door was opened, it never closed. And

what a door it was! I have been to several countries now, but I try not to be one of those who pulls out a long list of countries they have backpacked through for a couple of days. I try to spend a minimum of two months in each country I visit."

Ryan Baker, '98, graduated with a business degree and is a usability engineer with Microsoft in Seattle, Washington. He serves as a bridge between the software

development team and Microsoft customers to understand their work flows and how the software can be improved.

"I communicate with users around the world, either by traveling to their locations or through remote sites that use teleconferencing technology," he said. "My group spans both the U.S. and China, so I also work closely with our team members in Shanghai through regular meetings. The MSSU international mission definitely provided a broad, global perspective that has allowed me to be adaptive in how I work with people from many different backgrounds and cultures."

— Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82

Director, Institute of International Studies



*Mark Shryock, '01, and students at a school in Pollachi, India, enjoy the end of a sports day event. Shryock was a consultant for the school, which is in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, and lit the torch and handed out awards to the students at the sports day. — Submitted photo*





# Strictly business

## From Joplin to Branson, marketing majors work hands-on.

**E**xperience can be a hard teacher. For the Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration marketing students, the adage is: Experience can be a rewarding teacher.

During the fall 2010 semester, two marketing department faculty members were able to involve their students in the daily business of the workplace. Dr. Scott Cragin's marketing strategy class was invited to participate in academic projects for the Andy Williams Moon River Theatre and Andy Williams Moon River Grill in Branson, Missouri. In addition, the Children's Center of Southwest Missouri in Joplin, Missouri, offered an opportunity for Stu Dunlop and his students to review the nonprofit's marketing program. The experiential work-studies with area businesses grew into learning encounters for students and faculty.

Two student teams worked with the Andy Williams staff to develop marketing plans for the theatre and grill. They met with Andy Williams, a singer with more than 50 years in the entertainment business, to gather information on target markets,

discuss increasing offseason business and create collaboration between the theatre and grill.

"It was a great opportunity for the students to work with a recognized business, providing a service which will help that business in the future," said Cragin.

As a result of this group project, one student was offered a full-time marketing position, and three business students held internships with the organization. Cragin said often projects involving businesses lead to internship opportunities, which may lead to permanent employment.

Cragin, associate professor of marketing, said SOBA's upper-level marketing courses often offer more hands-on work with actual businesses. Marketing-oriented projects help students develop teamwork and problem-solving skills.

"Allowing our students to work with area businesses and not-for-profits will give them on-the-job experience and broaden their career portfolios. Students see the dorm rooms and classrooms — we want them to see the conference rooms and board rooms, witnessing where ideas take

form in the business world," Cragin said.

"The school of business understands initiative, a strong work ethic and the ability to work on a team are qualities employers are seeking to contribute to their organizations. Companies like to see students who've acquired real-world leadership experience versus those who have simply been involved in extracurricular activities. Academic projects are often the best way to combine the world of school with the world of work, gaining both practical experience and academic credits at the same time."

Dunlop, marketing instructor, agreed.

"Special projects serve as real-life simulation of work in the field, are an excellent way for students to fill in the gaps in the experience section of their resumes, and make mentoring contacts at local companies," he said.

Dunlop assisted in the project coordination, including student internships, to research and promote the Children's Center, a nonprofit agency serving area children who are victims of abuse. Three students worked on a public service announcement, updated brochures, offered recom-



From left, Scott Cragin, associate professor of marketing; Ricardo Cardona, '10, marketing graduate; Andy Williams, entertainer and owner of Moon River Theatre and Moon River Grill in Branson, Missouri; Jessica Green, senior marketing major; Maria Jose Casas-Cordero, '10, marketing graduate; and Stu Dunlop (back), marketing instructor, take time for a photo last semester. Missouri Southern students helped develop a marketing plan for the theatre and grill. — Submitted photo

mendations for the center's website and developed a marketing program. Students developed class projects, acquired practical experience and learned how innovation moves things forward in the business world.

Working with southwest Missouri business professionals has given SOBA students insight into what it takes to build a successful business.

"I learned a lot from both projects because they both taught me different things," said Ashley Shaw, who graduated in December 2010 with a marketing major and a minor in management. "The Andy Williams project helped me learn about a lot of different aspects to effectively manage a business. The Children's Center helped me learn how much work goes into running a nonprofit organization and how important it is for people to be aware of their services.

***"Companies like to see students who've acquired real-world leadership experience versus those who have simply been involved in extracurricular activities."***

Being involved in both projects helped me learn it takes a whole team of business professionals to effectively manage a business."

The project experience makes students more marketable as job candidates and gives them the chance to gain greater understanding about their chosen field and see the pros and cons of the workplace. Shaw said the experience allowed her to be a participant in business, not just an observer.

"The Andy Williams project helped me learn how to create a marketing plan for a business and how to effectively implement it," she said. "It takes a lot of hard work to create a successful marketing plan for any business, so careful consideration for every part is necessary. I created a public service announcement for the Children's Center, so that was something I never imagined

myself doing, but it was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in life so far. Being involved in projects like these helped me see the marketing world better than if I had just read it in a textbook.

"Both projects will help me with my future career dreams of opening up my own bakery because one of the first steps to opening a business is learning how to market to your customers. You have to learn a lot from your target market in order to market to the right people."

Applicable workplace know-how is precisely the kind of knowledge SOBA students need to see their career dreams realized. Yes, experience can be a hard teacher at times; at SOBA, we continue to discover experience is an ever-changing and challenging teacher, leading us to continually reassess and renew our goals. Classroom creativity combined with innovative on-the-job projects will allow the Robert W. Plaster School of Business Administration students to succeed in the 21st century. **C**

— Dr. Beverly Block, Interim Dean,  
Robert W. Plaster School  
of Business Administration

# Child center grows thanks to grant

This year, the Missouri Southern State University Child Development Center celebrates its 25th anniversary. We are very proud in the school of education to have the Child Development Center as part of our school family. The CDC serves as the childcare center for the children and grandchildren of students, staff, faculty and alumni at Southern. It has been in operation since 1986 and licensed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to care for children between the ages of 2 through 5 years old since 1996. Additionally, the center is used as an extended classroom by MSSU students from departments on campus for child observation, research and practicum experiences.

Recently, a CDC long-range plan was developed in which one aspect of the plan was the addition of services offered to families with children birth to 2 years old. For the entirety of the operation of the CDC, prior to fall 2011, the age range for students has been 2 to 5. This has always created a problem for families with a child under 2 and one older than 2. In these situations, it is a challenge for families to go to two different centers to meet their childcare needs. The new goal was to become a CDC that could educate children birth to 5. Obviously,



this would take additional funds to remodel the CDC to meet the needs of the additional ages. In these challenging financial times, it was a given that grant funding was needed for expansion. The CDC staff and the University Resource Center completed several grant applications with the goal of adding children birth to 2 to the Center.

This fall, the CDC was notified that it had received a grant from the Children's Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services providing \$143,208. This grant allowed for the CDC to make the modifications to the physical space to provide the opportunity to serve children from birth to 5 years of age. Funding from this grant will be used to modify the CDC's facility and playground to meet the criteria to obtain licensure to care for infants from birth through 23 months of age and preschoolers 2 to 5. Funds will be used to modify the interior of the center to include an infant room with food preparation sink, relocate and renovate the preschool playground, and create an age-appropriate playground for infants. Remodeling has begun, with the plan of opening in the "new" CDC on the first day of the 2011-12 school year.

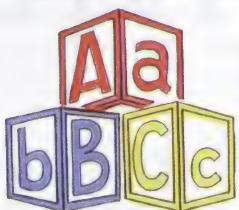
We are very proud of the history of the Missouri Southern Child Development Center. We are proud of the past 25 years and look forward to the next 25 years and beyond for the CDC.

— Dr. Glenn Coltharp, Dean, School of Education



Avery Terry, 5, shapes Play-Doh in her class at the Child Development Center. A grant from the Children's Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services will fund the cost of upgrading the CDC to include infants and toddlers who are under the age of 2. — Photo by Alexandra Nicolas, '11

# Educating Lions from birth



Child Development Center expands to include infant care.



Stella Hartmann, 3, studies a picture with Jordan Long, senior early childhood development major, at the Missouri Southern Child Development Center. — Photos by Alexandra Nicolas, '11

Through the double doors and into the day care center at Taylor Hall, the halls are quiet. But when 50 children wake up from their naps, the eruption of laughter, cries, and "Teacher, I need to go to the bathroom," fill the halls.

While the preschoolers nap, Nikki Tapana, Dana Forsythe and Julie Vandine, the teachers in the three classrooms at the Child Development Center, talked about the big plans in store for the facility. And, these women are excited.

Thanks to the enhancement grant from the Department of Social Services, the facility will be adding an additional classroom and playground to accommodate infants. Officials at Missouri Southern felt it was a priority to serve newborns because few



Kale Bornhoft looks for a toy to play with at the Missouri Southern Child Development Center.

centers in the area take infants. Southern, like many other day care facilities in the area, cares for children ages 2 to 5, before they go off to kindergarten.

This grant makes life a little easier for families on campus.

"We have parents that need to move to other centers if they have a newborn," said Dr. Glenn Coltharp, dean of the school of education.

By providing these services, it will increase enrollment as well as make sure the CDC won't lose older students who have to move when a new member of the family comes along. The CDC offers a warm, home-like environment that focuses on academics as well as creative activities.

"One thing that makes our center unique is our combination of enrichment with academic activities for the students," Coltharp said. "We try to create a family environment and keep learning fun."

Tappana, the lead teacher, has been talking up this grant since the school year began. Her big smile assures that the

school won't be going away anytime soon. In May 2010, the CDC was set to close due to budget cuts, but changes were made to keep the program open and growing. Tappana, who teaches the oldest group of kids, was a key player in making that happen.

Vandine, the newest member of the CDC staff, is excited about the change.

"I think it will be a nice complement to the family. It will help keep the ties strengthened," said Vandine, who teaches the youngest age group.

Forsythe, with her expertise and silver hair, is nicknamed "the grandma of the house." She has been with the CDC for 15 years and has seen a lot of progress. Teacher requirements have changed during those years, and Forsythe used to receive hourly pay, which created a lot of turnover with the teachers.

She said the standards are high at the CDC.

"We are required to do a lot more than other preschool teachers because we have college students in the classrooms," Forsythe said. "These kids are hands-on in the classroom, observing and working with the children."

One exciting aspect of the expansion is the conversion of the playground into two areas, one for preschoolers and one for infants and toddlers.

Most facilities that cater to infants don't have an outdoor playground.

"It is important for the babies to get time outside," said Vandine. "Toddlers with outside play are so much healthier and more hearty. It will be a great asset for the babies to be able to go outside."

Vandine sipped her coffee and said she loves the family environment the CDC provides and how involved the parents are with their children's progress.

"There's so much positive insight into how the children are learning," she said.

The three women spend their days dedicated to helping the families of Missouri Southern by providing care

and education to the children. Bringing infants into the center will provide even more support to students and faculty by keeping families united.

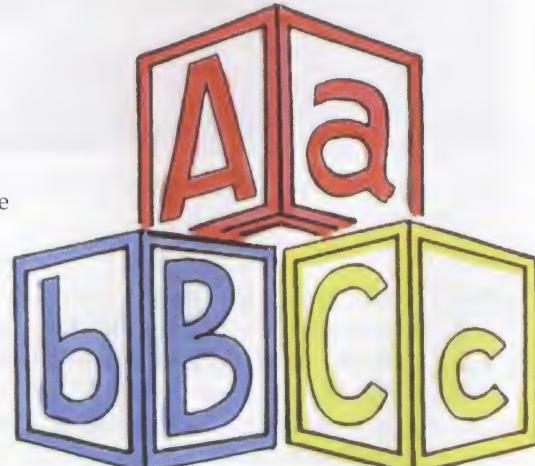
"It is a desire to serve the families in our community," said Coltharp. 

— Niki Corcoran, '11

## CDC fun facts

- ▶ The MSSU Child Development Center opened in 1986
- ▶ Each of the three classrooms accommodates 16 children and are divided among: 2-3 year olds, pre-potty trained; 3-4 year olds; and ages 5 and older.
- ▶ Tuition (per day, per child) is \$32 for children ages 6 weeks to 6 months; \$30 for children 6 months to 1 year; and \$26 for children 1 to 5.
- ▶ Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- ▶ The \$143,203 enhancement grant will add infants to the center in fall 2011.
- ▶ The new infant rooms will accommodate eight newborns and eight older infants.
- ▶ Instructors include Nikki Tappana, Dana Forsythe and Julie Vandine.
- ▶ For more information about the CDC, contact Nikki Tappana at 417-625-3178.

Source: Child Development Center, Missouri Southern State University



# Third Thursday finds a Focal Point

Three years ago, the city of Joplin started Third Thursday, a gathering of regional artists designed to attract people to downtown Joplin and to give budding artists a platform to show their work.

During the second year of Third Thursday, Burt Bucher, assistant professor of art, thought this would also be a great opportunity to bring MSSU and the community together. Thus was born the concept that became known as Focal Point.

Mr. Bucher approached Mark Williams about allowing the MSSU Art Department to use his vacant building at 509 Main Street as a student art gallery on Third Thursday.

When he agreed to allow them to develop the building for the Third Thursday season (March through October), Bucher and his student volunteers developed the old hair salon into a viable art gallery. In an effort to make it the place of destination, the gallery adopted the name Focal Point.

While word spread slowly at first, Focal Point did become the destination site of many of the Third Thursday patrons. When Third Thursday unofficially began around 5:30 in the evening, Focal Point was already collecting people, who milled around the gallery, discussing artwork with both students and other visitors.

As the event started to wind down, and visitors began to seek dinner plans, Focal Point was still teeming with people. To keep the exhibit fresh, the art display changed every month. It is evident that Focal Point has become one of the main draws of Third Thursday.

Focal Point has shown that it serves multiple purposes for the Third Thursday event. First, it has allowed many art students an opportunity to show the art they have produced. While some students sell their work, most use their work in portfolios for graduation.

Second, students receive feedback from community members. Students are constantly get-

## THIRD THURSDAY

Event is held each month from March to October in downtown Joplin, Missouri. Remaining dates for 2011 include:

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October 20

Source:

Stephanie McGrew, Special Events Manager,  
Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce

ting feedback from faculty, but the opportunity to hear comments from the public is invaluable.

And finally, in fulfilling Bucher's goal, Focal Point has brought the University to the community — made it a visible part of Joplin beyond the campus.

As Third Thursday begins another season, the art department is planning to establish its presence again. The original site of Focal Point will not be available this year, so Mr. Bucher says they are seeking another building to use. He has even said if they can't find a building, they might see if they can set up tents on Main Street.

So if you come down to Third Thursday, look for the Focal Point. It will be the location where the crowd gathers early and stays late, and the students are beaming with excitement about bringing their art to the city of Joplin.

— Dr. Richard Miller, Dean  
School of Arts and Sciences

*“When Third Thursday unofficially began around 5:30 in the evening, Focal Point was already collecting people, who milled around the gallery, discussing artwork with both students and other visitors.”*

# Culture comforts



*Dr. José Alvarez brings his love of music and Colombian culture into the classroom.*

— Photo by Nathan Carter, '11

# Instructor's South American heritage enhances and inspires MSSU students' learning experience.

Deep within the country of Colombia, surrounded by lush rainforests, lies a small town, Agua de Dios. The streets speak the history of a deep culture and a country wrought with civil unrest.

Dr. José Alvarez, assistant professor of foreign languages, faced many challenges in Agua de Dios before joining the faculty at Missouri Southern in 2008.

After completing a bachelor's degree in anthropology at the Universidad National de Colombia, Alvarez worked for the Colombian government as head of the cultural department.

"My job was to bring the Colombian people together and remind them of their heritage," said Alvarez, who helped build community centers where he taught children about their culture and literature. "I gave them hope because they had no hope."

His career came to a halt when he spoke out against corruption.

"There were people in my department taking money meant for the cultural programs and using it illegally for their own benefit," said Alvarez.

Shortly after, he began receiving threats.

"They tried to run me off the road," Alvarez said.

"Then they slashed my tires and threatened me by telephone."

Concerned for the safety of his wife and three small children, Alvarez sent his family to the United States.

After six years of working under difficult conditions, Alvarez was released from his duties with the government and joined his family in 2000 in Miami, Florida.

Leaving home was difficult, but Miami provided many opportunities. Alvarez pursued his studies while working for Univision, where he was in charge of the educational department for two years. During this time, he was also writing a

## DR. JOSÉ ALVAREZ

### Professional

Taught at Florida International University, University of Miami, Miami Dade College. Worked as editor for Univision where he created a scholarship for students.

### Personal

Has three children, Alex, 26; Sebastian, 22; and Julian, 19.

### Education

Received his bachelor's degree in anthropology from Universidad National de Colombia and master's and doctoral degrees at Florida International University in Miami.

### Travel

Moved to the United States in 2000, and began working at MSSU in 2008. He has traveled to Paris on five different occasions.

*"My medicine is teaching. When I feel bad, I go to class and it disappears."*

book and singing at a local restaurant in the evenings to earn extra money.

"Teaching didn't pay much," said Alvarez, "but I love to teach, so I did what I had to do."

After 10 years working and raising a family in Miami, Alvarez decided to pursue his dream of obtaining a full-time teaching position.

That opportunity came at Missouri Southern.

He brings a unique cultural insight to his teachings, which combines his love for music and learning.

"He likes to think outside of the box,"

said Galen Rea, senior Spanish major and tutor.

Rea said Alvarez is a creative and positive instructor.

"He loves people, learning and music," said Rea. "The students enjoy his classes."

Soft-spoken and professional, Alvarez is a man of many passions. His interests in music and writing developed as a child. His father did not allow television or radio in their home, so Alvarez and his siblings found ways to entertain themselves. He and his brother, Augustín, created plays. A self-taught musician, Alvarez played the music and wrote the scripts, while his brother painted the sets.

"I remember my childhood like a paradise," said Alvarez. "There were streams, ponds and waterfalls — all without fences."

Home-schooled by his father at age 5, Alvarez entered public school as a second-grader.

"My father was an intelligent man," said Alvarez. "When he sent me off to school, he had already given me an education above the standards of public school."

Alvarez excelled in academics and music. At age 17, he worked in the famous Teatro Popular de Bogotá, where he studied under Jorge Ali Triana, who later went on to produce movies in Hollywood. Alvarez's theater career was cut short when asked to go on tour.

"I had to choose between the tour and continuing my education. I chose school," said Alvarez.

He stays in touch with his heritage by playing guitar and singing with a Colombian group, Valle Cumbé, in Bentonville, Arkansas. He also visits his native Colombia every year, where he continues to teach about his culture through lectures on writing and hieroglyphics.

"My medicine is teaching," said Alvarez. "When I feel bad, I go to class and it disappears."

— Rebecca Hartmann, '11



# On tour

Local band is anything but local.



Left, BJ Huffman, lead guitar; Sean Gaines, bass; and Anthony Greninger, percussion. — Photos by Andrew Pavlovic, '11

The lights were dim, the fruity aroma of hookah smoke filled the air, and comfortable couches beckoned. Close friends chatted and laughed, and abstract art and Bob Marley posters hung on the walls. Three college guys were rocking, and raw acoustic music

filled the ears of those listening.

The listeners found themselves bobbing their heads to the percussive rhythm of the cajón, tapping their feet to the bass guitar line and jamming along with the band. An ordinary night at the 12:51 Hookah Lounge in Joplin, Missouri, became a little more ex-

citing when the three guys of Offset Sunset played. This relaxed environment may be different from the stereotypical college party scene, but to this local band, it is the ideal place to play.

However, with an album in progress, one tour complete and another coming up,



a music video soon to be shot and at least three Facebook pages, it is hard to categorize this successful group from Webb City, Missouri, as merely a local band. Offset Sunset's three members — BJ Huffman, Sean Gaines and Anthony Greninger — want to be viewed as anything but that.

"We're proud to be from this area, but we want to be seen as a national-touring band that just happens to be from around here," said Huffman, lead vocalist and guitarist and a senior vocal music education major at Missouri Southern.

The trio has come a long way since their first gig in the summer of 2008.

"It was on the road — in front of some Porta-Potties — for some bikers," Huffman said.

Those bikers were bikers for a cause, however. They were members of Bikers Against Child Abuse. They jump-started Offset Sunset's fan base and success by inviting them back to play for them — this time at the National BACA Rally in Carthage, Missouri.

One year later, Offset Sunset's crowd changed dramatically. The band won the Boomtown Days Battle of the Bands and a chance to open for legendary classic rock group Kansas.

"The response was overwhelming," said Gaines, bass guitarist. "The crowd was huge! I think the count was close to 16,000, which is unreal for a band like us."

The fan base exploded, and Offset Sunset became all but a household name in the Joplin area.

Offset Sunset's unique sound is "addicting," Greninger said.

Greninger, junior graphic design major, plays a percussion instrument called a cajón. It looks to be nothing more than a wooden box, but that's all Greninger needs.

"He can put a beat to anything," said Huffman.

And that's exactly how it happens: Huffman writes a song, Gaines picks out a bass line, and Greninger drops a beat.

This simple formula has led Offset Sunset to perform in front of thousands of screaming fans across the Midwest. The band's first tour, the Invasion Tour, was a huge success. Offset Sunset teamed up with a hip-hop sensation out of New Orleans, J-Remy, and his band, New Rebel Flag. The two bands, along with a fire-spinning group, toured middle schools and high schools in the greater four-state area.

"It was like MTV invades your school," said Huffman.

Next for the band was the Something Real Tour in October 2010. Offset Sunset toured the greater four-state area with bands Consumed by Fire and Arlis Moon. Besides local venues and tours, Offset Sunset is in the process of cutting its first album.

"We really want to take our time and make everything perfect," said Huffman.

The album, which includes several original songs, will be released sometime in 2011.

With all the opportunities Offset Sunset has seen in the last couple of years, being in the band could be a full-time job. However, all three members work other jobs. It's a

heavy load, but they manage to balance it all and keep stress levels down by doing what they love — playing music. And, studying music in school has its benefits too.

"The musical knowledge that I've gained at Southern has only helped me be that much more innovative. Otherwise, I'd just be basing my songs upon stuff I've already played, and that could get kind of boring," said Huffman. "It helps to know how it all works."

As for the future, Offset Sunset has big aspirations.

"Our humor on stage is a more intellectual humor that doesn't always go over well with middle-schoolers," said Huffman. "If we could do some type of the Invasion Tour only on a college level, I think it would go over really well."

Also on the band's to-do list is a national coffeehouse tour across the country.

This "band from around here" is gaining speed toward its goals. But for now, look for Offset Sunset in its favorite local place: the 12:51 Hookah Lounge.

"We love playing there because it's such an intimate setting with all our closest friends," Huffman said.

The guys of Offset Sunset have acquired a large loyal fan base, but they always remember where they've been, including right past those Porta-Potties.

"Offset Sunset's raw acoustic style has got a powerful pop vibe," said Huffman, "and it's sure to put a smile on your face — wherever you are." 

— Melissa Holt, '11

# Dancin' Branson style

## Alumni discover successful careers in the Ozarks.

The saloon was packed with people. The music started up, and before long, the entire crowd was stomping and cheering with the saloon girls on stage. Not a minute went by without roaring laughter from the audience watching with apt attention.

Across the park, a buffalo stampede, a steam train, and other harrowing adventures beckoned. After the saloon ruckus and an adventure out West, it was time for yet another performance. Everyone headed to Echo Hollow to hear some Great American Country, as 10 singers and dancers twisted and turned, sang and shouted, laughed and cheered. Front stage center stood David and Rachel (Weisensee) Wallace, loving every minute.

So much for keeping up with the Joneses. This was just a typical day for the Wallaces, who work at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. David, '06, and Rachel, '05, are Missouri Southern alumni, who always knew they were meant to perform.

This husband and wife duo have been performing most of their lives through various outlets. Rachel began appearing on stage in the sixth grade, and it was something she always wanted to pursue.

"I couldn't see myself doing anything else and having as much fun and loving



David, '06, and Rachel, '05, Wallace perform in "Great American Country Nights in Echo Hollow" at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. —Submitted Photos

it as much as I do," she said.

David has been singing in church for as long as he can remember and was influenced by his father, who performed in a gospel quartet for several years. Since his church days, David has discovered many other types of music and loves performing. He can't imagine any other career path than the one he's on.

"Really, it's about the only thing I'm good at. Any other major in college wouldn't have been an option for me," he said.

With nine shows a day between the two of them, they have a hectic schedule. Rachel performs in and directs the "Choc-

taw Charlie's Frontier Follies" saloon show. David performs in three, hour-long "Headin' West" shows each day. On top of their commitments with their daytime performances, they appear nightly in "Great American Country Nights in Echo Hollow." During the holidays, they appeared in "Dickens's Christmas Carol." It's a full day for each of them, and in the summer, the days are even longer. It is not uncommon for them to go a stretch without a day off.

Time off isn't something they're concerned about, because they never tire of being onstage.

"Every show is different; every crowd



David Wallace plays the part of Scrooge and Rachel Wallace plays the Ghost of Christmas Past in "Dickens's Christmas Carol" at Silver Dollar City.

is different. I don't ever find myself feeling bored," Rachel said.

David agreed and said anything can happen during a performance. A light can burn out, a crowd can decide not to clap, or weather can get in the way.

"Even though it's the same show, it's never really the same performance," he said.

Amid all of the hustle and bustle, they still have each other to lean on, just as they have since their days at Missouri Southern and before.

They met at a Joplin Little Theatre production of "Annie," and celebrated their third wedding anniversary in August 2010.

David and Rachel attribute their education as key to their success in Branson. David majored in music, while Rachel majored in theatre with a minor in vocal music.

It wasn't uncommon for the pair to perform together. They appeared in several productions at Southern and in the Joplin area before they graduated.

"There were a lot of singers who were just singers. They only sang in church. They had no less talent, but they didn't

## Silver Dollar City Shows

### ► Choctaw Charlie's Frontier Follies:

**Follies:** At the Silver Dollar Saloon, usually, times are 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. each operating day from April 7 to October 29.

### ► Great American Country Nights in Echo Hollow:

**Begins** at park closing each night at 6 or 7 p.m. on days of operation, which are Tuesday through Sunday, April 7 to May 8; and May 12 to August 14; and September 10 to October 29.

### ► Headin' West:

**Presented** in September and October.

Source: Martha Hoy Bohner, press contact for Silver Dollar City, Branson, Missouri

all of the music majors read music; it wasn't out of the ordinary."

Rachel was in more than 35 performances while she was a student and believes her experiences and coursework at Southern have been invaluable since she graduated. She credits her time in the theatre department to her ability to work well with all different types of people, directors, dancers and performers.

The couple considers themselves quite blessed and lucky to get to do what they love every day.

They do keep looking for opportunities elsewhere, on Broadway and beyond. What they love about Branson is that it can easily serve as a home base.

If an opportunity presents itself, it won't take much to hop a plane to New York or elsewhere.

They appreciate that they are gaining valuable experience without having to live off of Ramen noodles.

"We also keep our heads in reality. We don't consider ourselves superstars by any means," said David.

"We don't have any delusions, but we do keep an eye out." 

— Chelsea Jones, '11

know how to sight sing or read music; they just learned it by ear. So when we were at rehearsals, and we had pieces of music in front of us and I'd read music, they were astounded," he said.

"When we were at Missouri Southern,

# Q&A:

A surprising turn of events took Frederic Doss, '00, from an Air Force base to a movie set and inspired him to pursue a professional career in acting.

## Q: How did you get into acting?

**A:** I've always been an entertainer. I was a goofy kid. I finally got into theater my senior year in high school. Loved it. I started MSSU as a theatre major but wasn't responsible enough my first go around to make college stick. After a brief hiatus and meeting my amazing wife, I came back as a sociology major and quit doing theater for about 10 years. A lifetime later, I was a lieutenant in the Air Force stationed at Holloman AFB out in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and "Transformers: The Movie" rolled through the base. I was part of an ADVON team to welcome Michael Bay and his crew around to see what we could offer. After six months of working behind the scenes with the crew, I ran into the locations casting director, Sally Jackson, at lunch. When she found out about my prior theater experience, she helped snag me a role in the film. I was hooked. Nothing else since has given me the kind of fulfillment and enjoyment as a career than acting in front of a camera. I'm a ruined man.

## Q: How did MSSU prepare you for the field?

**A:** My theater experience definitely helped develop me as an actor. My crazy life and the hard-knocks lessons I learned from some of my instructors who made me deal with the consequences of my actions helped to make me a better person. Plus, had I not met my wife there, I can't imagine I would have accomplished anything as cool as what I've done in my life.

## Q: What did you originally want to do as a career?

**A:** I suppose I've always wanted to entertain, but when I discovered sociology, I decided that I wanted to be a professor. I tried to go to University of Missouri-Columbia after graduating from Southern, but some broken promises from the folks heading up admissions left me high and dry making \$8 an hour with a college degree and looking to have to wait an entire



*Frederic Doss, '00, got his start in the film industry with a role in "Transformers: The Movie" while he was stationed at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. — Submitted photo*

year to finally start studying. That wait was cut short by the events of 9/11 and a sudden strong desire to make right with my country. I felt I had enjoyed so much of the freedom this country provides its citizens, and I needed to pay some of it back. Six months later I was in the service.

## Q: What was your first breakout role?

**A:** Breakout is a weighted term. A lot of times it means the role that made you a name or someone recognized widespread in the field. I'm not sure I've had that one yet. I can say that if "Humans Vs. Zombies" turns out to be even half of what I think it will be, then that may be the one. I have a great character in that one and it was a very fun project in a popular genre.

## Q: What other projects are you pursuing?

**A:** Anything that would be fun to do! I'm working in a lot of independent circles right now. Recently, I worked on a gritty horror-suspense flick in New York called "Cut!" Then, out here in east Texas, I had a fantastic lead role as a shotgun

toting, conspiracy nut zombie slayer in the film "Humans Vs. Zombies." Very proud of that one. There are all sorts of projects I would love to do. Lots of dream gigs. It's very hard to force the big stuff to happen at the level I'm on now. I've read for some fantastic parts that I didn't get. I auditioned for "True Grit" to play the role of Moon (originally performed by Dennis Hopper). I auditioned to play the role of Captain America in the upcoming "Captain America: The First Avenger" film. I auditioned and met with the director to play one of the Marines in the upcoming "Battle: Los Angeles." How different my life would be right now had I landed one of those roles. Mine is coming though.

## Q: What advice would you give other aspiring actors?

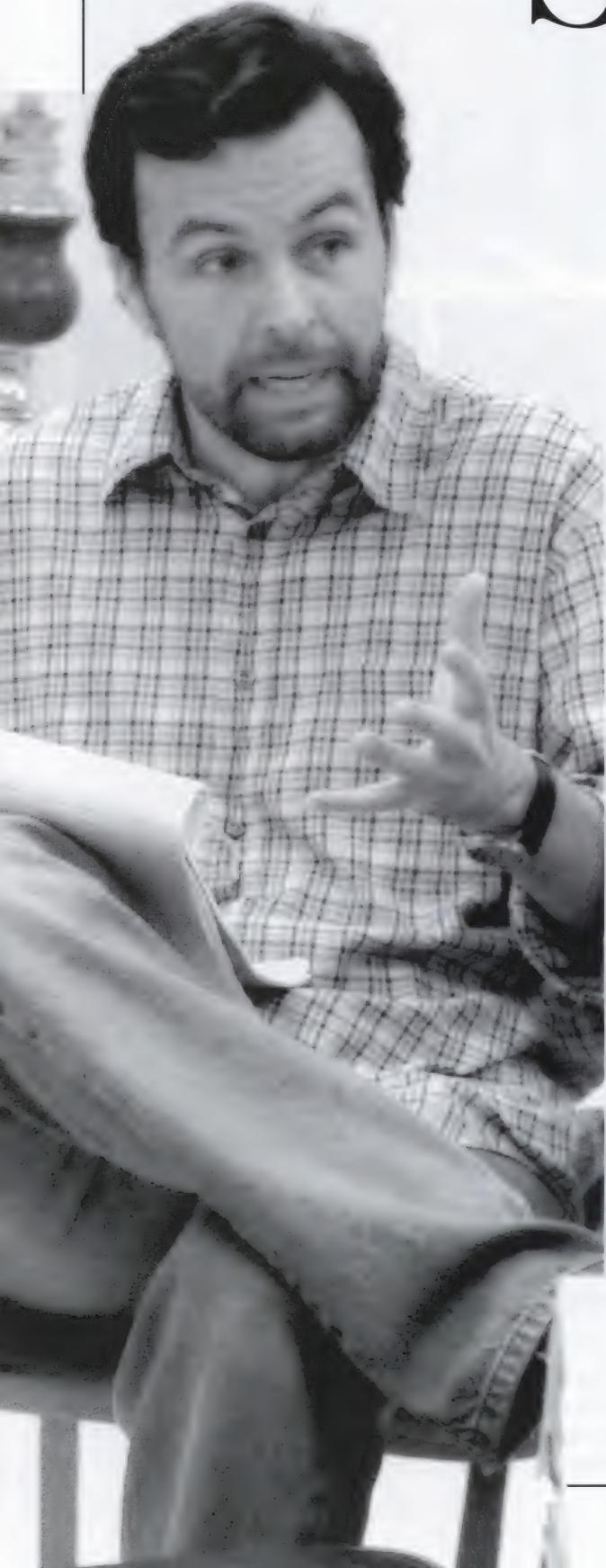
**A:** A few quick things: One, if you can think of anything else that you could do for a living that would make you happy, do that instead. Two, if you come down this road, realize it takes time, hard work and a lot of rejection to get even to where I am now. If it were easy, everyone would do it. You need to have thick skin and perseverance to be successful at this. Three, don't necessarily run off to L.A. to get your break. Filmmaking is becoming decentralized more and more. Michigan, Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana all have great incentives to bring productions into their states. The talent pools are smaller, and you have a better chance of building a resume. Four, keep working on those special skills that you have. Every actor who has a chance is a talented actor. Play guitar, learn martial arts, join the military. Find stuff that sets you apart.

— Heather Carlton, '11

*Frederic Doss, '00, graduated from Missouri Southern with a bachelor of science in sociology and a minor in philosophy. He lives in Ft. Worth, Texas, with his wife, Andrea, '99, and two children. His parents and sisters live in Joplin, Missouri.*

# Shakespearean Semester

With London trip, Tim Klein's theatre career comes full circle.



Almost 20 years ago, Tim Klein was a student in London, but this trip, he'll return as the instructor. Dressed casually in tennis shoes, jeans, a long-sleeved shirt, and looking years younger than his actual age, many would confuse him for a student rather than a professor. But step into his office and look at the shelves of scripts and books, and it's apparent Klein is indeed a professor with a passion for two things: theatre and acting.

Klein has accumulated many experiences in his life from acting and theatre. He graduated from St. Bonaventure University with a bachelor's in psychology and obtained a master of fine arts in dramatic art from the University of North Carolina. He traveled the country doing theatre, movies, and working with stars he'd admired since childhood.

None of those compare to his experience in London, where he is getting the chance to visit again.

Klein will be one of three Missouri instructors who will be teaching students in London for the spring 2012 semester as part of the Missouri London Program. It will be his third time visiting London.

His first visit to London was in 1992, when he studied Shakespearean acting at the University of Oxford.

"It was a life-changing and eye-opening experience," said Klein.

He says the world of theatre and the arts is held to a higher standard and respect in England than in the United States. English theatre is part of the culture, history and livelihood, not just a medium of entertainment.

The acting training is also more extensive than in the U.S. In England, acting isn't about popularity and fame.

English stage actors might do movies, but in the U.S., professional movie actors might do theatre.

English theater is about skill, not aesthetics, and studying the history and learning the craft of acting in order to make better theatre and art. Klein teaches this style at Southern, and he wants to instill this into his future London students.

"I'll be teaching theatre appreciation and Shakespeare when I'm there," said Klein.

Most of his training is in Shakespeare, and he'll be teaching while three or four Shakespeare plays are running.

"It will be a great tool having those plays going on because I can teach the students something, and then we will be able to go down the street and see it done," said Klein.

Klein sees the London opportunity as a privilege to be able to teach somebody what he has been taught. He holds theatre and acting to the highest level of respect because of his experience in London.

"We are very excited about Tim's future experience to teach in London," said Ann Lile, assistant professor of theatre at Southern. "Having our school and department represented on an international level is great recognition for our school and our department." 

— Dustin Sisney, '11

# Game changer

## An accident 20 years ago helped a Missouri Southern secretary to find a new focus and outlook on her life.

The sound of screeching tires and the smell of burnt rubber filled the air. The eyes of those passing by grew wide with suspense. The faint sound of ambulance sirens rang out, and the crowd gasped as they viewed the cold, still body of a woman, face down on the highway.

Joan Kearney, '91, was fresh out college and looking for the best out of life on that fateful day.

Kearney attended college at Missouri Southern and received a degree in computer programming. At the time, she was single and living in Joplin, working at Appleton Supply. A friend, Mary Childress, invited Kearney to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, to sightsee and relax.

Kearney accepted the invitation, not realizing how drastically her life would change when the weekend of relaxation turned tragic after a mo-ped accident.

"We had done all the sightseeing we could do by car, so the next day

we were going to rent mo-peds and see downtown," Kearney said. "I had been at church that morning and was driving back to meet my friend. I have lost all the rest of my memory from that day."

Although she was unable to remember any events of the accident, Childress was able to witness it all.

"It was one of the most horrible events that I've ever experienced," Childress said. "We had met up at the mo-ped store and decided against helmets and rented the mo-peds. We drove around on the parking lot to get use to the bikes. I will never forget the words she said as we were pulling out on the highway. She

said, 'Are we idiots or what?'"

They didn't realize these chilling words would be Kearney's last for a while.

"We hadn't gone even a mile, and I noticed Joan's bike weaving," Childress said. "The next thing I saw was Joan flying through the air, separated from the bike, and I watched her head hit the pavement hard the first time, then rolled over, hit again, then rolled one last time, leaving her lying face down on the main highway."

The ambulance arrived shortly after, but the worst was not close to being over. Kearney was flown to the Springdale, Arkansas, hospital where a neurosurgeon was



Above, Joan Kearney, art department secretary, and Nathan McCallister, senior art major, inspect a violin McCallister is reconstructing. Kearney helps keep students in the art department organized. Above right, the wall behind Kearney's desk is surrounded by artwork produced by her students. Some pieces are gifts, and others she reserves to purchase as soon as she sees them. — Photos by Alexandra Nicolas, '11

waiting to do emergency surgery. Upon Kearney's arrival, Childress was told that Kearney had died in the helicopter and was asked to contact her family.

Before Childress was able to make any calls, a miracle happened.

"They rolled her back into the hospital and gave her an injection in her heart, which thankfully brought her back to life," Childress said.

Even after stabilizing Kearney, the trauma and injuries were still life-threatening.

"She was in a coma, and they had to shave the top of her head and drill a hole in her skull to relieve the swelling of her brain," Childress said.

"They told me to call her family because they didn't know if she would survive."

After several days and many surgeries, Kearney recovered and was able to return home. Both Kearney and Childress praised God and asked for strength for the long road ahead.

"My recovery process was long and frustrating," Kearney said. "At first my speech was very bad, so people talked to me like I was very slow. I remember thinking 'why are people treating me like I'm stupid?'"

One of Kearney's most difficult times was when she was going through rehabilitation.

"My rehab lady kept telling me all the things I could not do anymore," she said. "This would make me very angry. So I went out and found two part-time jobs all on my own."

Kearney was hired by Southern as the art department secretary in August 1993, only two years after her accident.

She described her employment as a big step.

"Since I started working here, I realize I was in a very low spot when I started, but it has been a very good place to work," she said.

Kearney has been a faithful MSSU employee for more than 17 years. Her trials and struggles have only made her stronger, and MSSU is blessed to have her as part of its team.

"My life outlook has changed; if you aren't dead, you can fix it, so I don't stress over too much," she said. 

— Amelia Parks, '10



*"The next thing I saw was Joan flying through the air, separated from the bike, and I watched her head hit the pavement hard the first time, then rolled over, hit again, then rolled one last time, leaving her lying face down on the main highway."*

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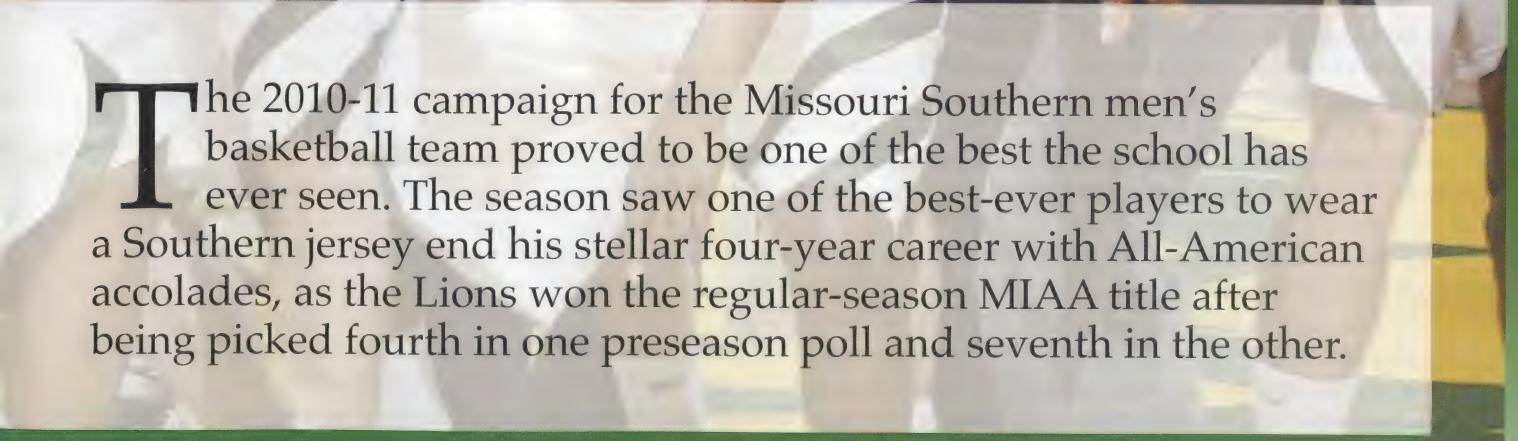
Mary Childress,  
*Friend of Joan Kearney*



**MIAA  
CHAMPIONS**



The 2010-11 campaign for the Missouri Southern men's basketball team proved to be one of the best the school has ever seen. The season saw one of the best-ever players to wear a Southern jersey end his stellar four-year career with All-American accolades, as the Lions won the regular-season MIAA title after being picked fourth in one preseason poll and seventh in the other.





Missouri Southern junior guard Jason Adams flies by Southwest Baptist guard Tomas Brock in first round MIAA Tournament action on March 3 at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. The Lions won 101-94. — Photo by Matthew Hicks

The Lions started the season with nine-straight wins and were ranked in the National Association of Basketball Coaches Division II poll for all but three weeks of the year and for nine-straight weeks, tying a Southern record. Southern would finish the season ranked ninth nationally. The Lions won 21 of their first 23 games and were ranked either first or second in every NCAA South Central Regional poll, finishing the season ranked second in the region. Southern made it to the championship game of the MIAA Tournament and went to the second-round of the NCAA Tournament, falling to eventual regional champ Midwestern State.

Senior Skyler Bowlin led a charge to help the Lions sweep the MIAA post-season awards. Bowlin was named the unanimous MIAA Player of the Year, while also repeating as MIAA Defensive Player of the Year, an honor he shared with Dijon Smith of Fort Hays. Coach Robert Corn was named the MIAA's Coach of the Year, while Marquis Ad-

dison was named the league's Freshman of the Year. It is the third time in the last four years that a Lion has won that award (Bowlin in 2008 and Jason Adams in 2009).

Bowlin made his fourth-straight MIAA All-Defensive Team, while sharing first-team All-MIAA honors with Jason Adams. Big man Keane Thomann was a third-team All-MIAA pick, and Bowlin was also named to the MIAA All-Tournament Team.

The honors did not stop there, as Bowlin (first team) and Adams (second-team) were named All-Region by both Daktronics and the NABC, with Bowlin picking up Regional Player of the Year honors from both groups.

Bowlin was named to three different All-American teams (Daktronics, NABC and the Basketball Times), while being one of eight finalists for National Player of the Year as selected by the NABC.

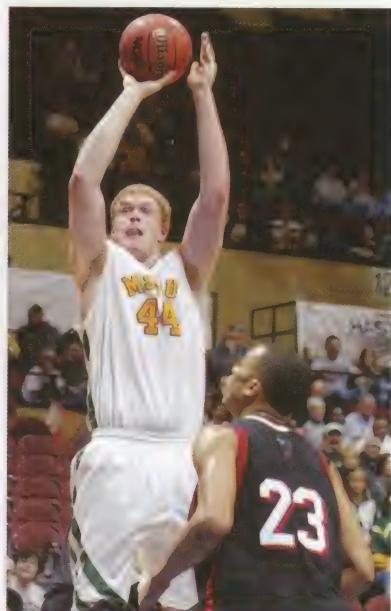
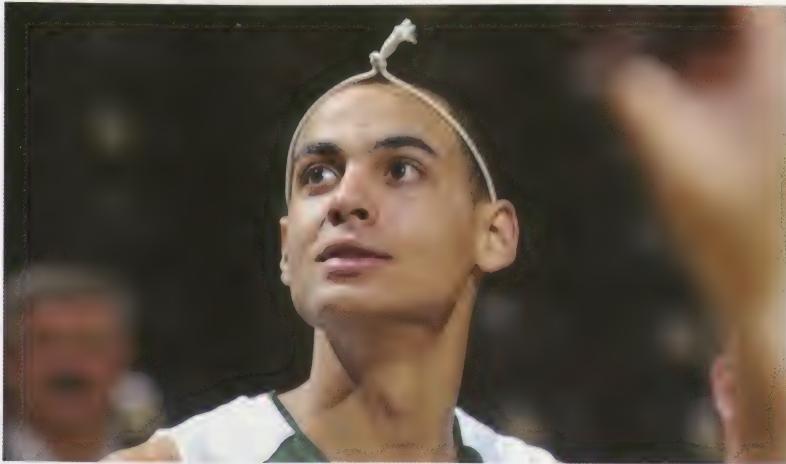
He was also chosen to participate in the NABC Division II All-Star Game at the end of the season.

Bowlin finished his career as the Lions' all-time leader in 3-pointers with 224, while his 1,664 career points rank him fourth all-time. His 568 assists and 265 steals rank third and second all-time, and free-throw percentage of .830 ranks second all-time. He led the MIAA in steals and ranked 19th in D-II, while ranking second in the MIAA in assists and 13th in D-II in that category. Adams moved to sixth all-time in scoring, while ranking third all-time in 3-pointers made in a career.

Corn earned his third MIAA Coach of the Year honor as a unanimous pick by his peers in the league. He won his 350th career game in a win over Northwest Missouri to end the regular season and was a finalist for the Collegeinsider.com National Coach of the Year. He led the Lions to their seventh 20-win season and won the third most games in a regular season in Southern history, advancing to the school's second-ever NCAA postseason.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information

# Memorable moments ...



Top left, freshman, Marquis Addison watches his teammates cut the net after Lions claimed the MIAA regular-season title on February 23 at Missouri Southern. The Lions defeated the University of Nebraska-Omaha 92-78 to secure the title. Top right, coach Robert Corn and his son Rob celebrate the title victory. Middle left, senior Skyler Bowlin looks to pass against UNO. Middle center, junior Keane Thomann takes a jump shot against UNO. Middle right, junior Jason Adams shows spirit with "MOSO" shaved into his hair at the first-round game of the MIAA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri. Lower left, Portia Smith, mother of incoming Lions freshman Morgan Smith, shows her excitement in the first-round win against SBU at the MIAA Tournament. Lower right, the Lions prepare for the first-round game of the MIAA Tournament.

— MIAA regular-season title photos by Mike Gullett; MIAA Tournament photos by Matthew Hicks



# Rising to the top

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL



Photos from left, head coach Robert Corn reacts to the action in the game on February 23, 2011, at Leggett & Platt Athletic Center, when the Lions won the regular season MIAA Conference Championship. Corn and son Rob visit with the MSSU pep band. Corn and senior guard Skyler Bowlin share a congratulatory hug after the game. Corn autographs a program while holding one of the game nets. — Photos by Mike Gullett

## Coach Corn pushes for excellence on and off the court.

Taking one last look at the group of men he recruited before sending them out on the court, head coach Robert Corn was confident — confident that he had a team of young men with the character to be successful on and off the court.

Corn walked onto the court behind his team before a recent game this season, his son Rob at his side. The cheering for green and gold was a familiar sound.

A 1978 Missouri Southern physical education graduate, Corn is glad to be coaching the same team he once played for.

Corn entered his 21st season as head coach for the Lions, the only men's basketball coach Southern has seen since joining the MIAA Conference in 1989. Before returning to his alma mater, Corn was an assistant coach for the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

"I felt that I was ready to make that jump as a coach," said Corn.

Corn's courtside animation is also a familiar sight to Lions fans, as he reacts to anything from a buzzer-beating shot to an "unfair" call by the referee. Corn is also known for being soft spoken and humble, but his passion for basketball and the players comes out before a game.

Corn sets up a "game-day-mood" to get his athletes ready.

"Pregame speeches are always pretty

good," said senior guard and team captain Skyler Bowlin.

Corn recruits student-athletes who can excel at Southern as a Lion.

"Recruiting players who are serious about school and will represent Missouri Southern well is what we look for," Corn said.

Corn places success in the classroom at the top of the list of team expectations.

"He wants us to not only be the best quality athletes, but quality men," Bowlin said.

With Southern playing such a big part in his life, Corn's family is also involved. Corn and his wife, Cindy, have two sons, Rob and Scott.

The Corns have spent much of their lives growing up with the young men who play for Southern. Corn is proud by how close his sons have been with the team.

"It's like they have a bunch of older brothers," said Corn.

Returning to his alma mater as head coach has special meaning.

"Being an alumnus is very special to me," said Corn. "Getting emails and phone calls from fellow alumni congratulating a win is a great feeling."

Bowlin credits Corn with the team's championship season.

"Quality people coach quality athletes," Bowlin said.

— Sam Pogue, '13

### ROBERT CORN

#### Professional

Men's basketball head coach and assistant professor of kinesiology, Missouri Southern State University (1989-present)  
Men's basketball assistant coach, University of Alabama-Birmingham (1981-89)

#### Education

Master's in physical education, University of Alabama-Birmingham (1981)  
Bachelor's in physical education, Missouri Southern State University (1978)

#### Honors

Won his 350th career game on February 26, 2011, when the Lions defeated Northwest Missouri State University 83-64  
Member of the Joplin Area Sports Hall of Fame (2010)  
Member of the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame (2006)  
Missouri Southern Athletics Hall of Fame (2000)

#### Personal

Hometown: Benton, Illinois  
Wife: Cindy  
Children: Rob (25) and Scott (17)





# A winning tradition

The sandy beaches of Nassau were the training ground for one Lion, who found a passion for learning and basketball.

**C**omplete silence filled the room. Young Kevin Hinsey had just lost. This was a conclusion uncommon to him. He had just lost to his uncle, Simeon Hinsey, in a simple game of one-on-one basketball. Refusing to speak to his uncle the whole ride home, Hinsey slowly warmed up over the next few days. Fast forward to Hinsey's senior year of high school. The silence is gone. Why? Because now he was able to beat his uncle. No more silent car rides home.

Hinsey, known to friends and family as "KJ," has a strong relationship with his Uncle Simeon. Six years ago, Hinsey chose to leave his home in Nassau, Bahamas, to follow in his uncle's footsteps and move to Fayetteville, Arkansas, to live with him.

Last fall, Hinsey transferred to Missouri Southern from Lamar Community College in Colorado. Hinsey entered Southern's basketball roster as a guard with the possibility of seeing time in the forward position. His athleticism added even more versatility to the Lions lineup.

He averaged 5.5 points and 2.7 rebounds per game this season with the Lions.

"He's a great athlete and brings a lot in practice and in games," senior Patrick Hester said.

Hester, a guard for the Lions, attended Bentonville High School in Bentonville, Arkansas, and competed against Hinsey growing up.

Hinsey's uncle came to the states when he was younger to pursue basketball and an education at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, where he is now the sports information director for the Golden Eagles. Hinsey realized the benefits in moving to the states.

"If I didn't come play ball, I wouldn't be doing anything in the Bahamas — just working," he said. "School wasn't important back home."

To better prepare him to play basket-

ball, Hinsey's father would wake him at six every morning to go running on the beach in the Bahamas.

"All day long, he thinks I'm like Michael Jordan," Hinsey said about his father, who he is named after.

Along with running on the beach every morning, Hinsey played a lot of ball.

"Basketball is big in the Bahamas. Everyone is athletic," Hinsey said.

Hinsey's mother has also been a major influence in his life.

"She told me to put God first and to get a good education," Hinsey said.

Between his uncle being a guiding light, his father waking him every morning to run, and his mother constantly checking his Facebook status, Hinsey admits they are everything to him. 

— Ashlee Russell, '10



*Kevin "KJ" Hinsey works the ball in the first round game of the MIAA Tournament, March 3 at Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri. Above left, Hinsey takes a break during a practice session this spring.* — Photos by Matthew Hicks and Andrew Pavlovic, '11

# Season of success



*Clockwise from upper left, after her 250th win, coach Maryann Mitts receives the game ball and a hug from senior Jasmine Lovejoy. Lovejoy dribbles past PSU's defense in the first round of the MIAA Tournament. Erin Rice pushes toward the basket. Lindsey Rujawitz passes over a PSU player. The Lions lost a heartbreaker in overtime, 61-57, in their 10th straight appearance at the MIAA Tournament. — Photos by Matthew Hicks*

## Mitts wins 250th; Lions make 10th-straight MIAA appearance.

The Missouri Southern women's basketball team continued its long-standing success and finished the 2010-11 season with the 10th-straight winning record under coach Maryann Mitts and another trip to the MIAA Basketball Tournament. The team was also ranked regionally for nearly every week the poll was conducted during the season, and it was one of the most enjoyable groups of young women to be around, coach Mitts stated on many occasions.

The team opened up the season with two tough games at Arkansas-Fort Smith and at home against eventual Lone Star Champion Northeastern State. Both games the Lions came away with losses, but it proved to be learning material for Southern as the team proved it could play with some of the best teams in the country. The Lions went on to win seven out

of their next eight games and won 10 of the final 13 games of the regular season, including wins over defending national champion Emporia State and 18th ranked Northwest Missouri State, an NCAA National Semi-Finalist.

Even though the Lions' season ended with a loss to Pittsburg State in the MIAA Tournament in overtime, the team saw many bright spots throughout the campaign. Coach Mitts won her 250th career game with the win at home over Northwest to end the regular season. Jasmine Lovejoy was a first-team All-MIAA selection and a member of the All-Defensive team, while Erin Rice was a third team All-MIAA pick. Lovejoy was also a second-team All-Region pick. Lovejoy was a two-time MIAA player of the week, finishing second in the conference in scoring with 17.7 points per game, while

finishing sixth in rebounding. Her 16.3 points per game scoring average puts her just outside of the top five in career scoring average at the school, and she scored 896 points in her short, two-year career at Southern. She had 401 rebounds and was a career .496 shooter from the field. The 2010-11 season saw three different 30-point performances from the Springfield, Massachusetts, native.

The Lions also played the 1,000th game in the history of women's basketball at Southern in a December 11 win over Lincoln at home, that was televised regionally on the MIAA Network.

The Lions also broke a 17-year winless streak at Missouri Western when the women paired with the men to sweep the Griffons on the road for the first time in school history. **C**

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information



*Voice of the Lions Kevin Greim covers play-by-play at a Lions home basketball game. — Photo by Julie Lybarger*

# The roar of a Lion

Assistant athletics director keeps listeners informed from the first whistle.

People in the four-state area know the voice of Kevin Greim. His voice has represented Missouri Southern athletics through the airways for the past decade. From the gridiron to the basketball court to the baseball diamond, the assistant athletics director is present at every game, covering the play-by-play of the Lions.

Greim began his 11th season as the Voice of the Lions last fall and is also assistant athletics director for external operations.

"People genuinely love listening to him," said Bart Tatum, MSSU head football coach. "Everyone I talk to talks about how good of a job he does."

Greim looks forward to his job every day; no two days are the same.

"Being around our coaches and students on a daily basis is invigorating," Greim said.

He did not plan to have a career in athletics. Upon starting college, he declared a major in marketing but realized the business field wasn't for him.

"I knew I wasn't doing what I loved," Greim said.

He switched to electronic media and

found an interest in sports broadcasting.

"I love sports, and I have a competitive drive," Greim said. "It would be difficult being in a field that didn't involve that."

Much has changed since Greim first stepped foot on campus as the Voice of the Lions, especially technology. The quality of the broadcast equipment has also improved.

"I used to sound like I was talking through a phone, but with our equipment upgrades, it now sounds like we're talking face-to-face," he said.

A couple of moments stand out most for Greim since beginning his role as the Voice of the Lions. He remembers when Don Gross, former Voice of the Lions and MSSU Hall of Famer, handed him the microphone for the first time.

"I will never forget that," Greim said. "It was such an honor."

Just before he died, Gross was in the hospital and asked to visit with Greim one last time.

"To have such a legend and a guy that everyone loved want to see me was one of the best honors I've ever experienced," Greim said.

*"Kevin Greim has had a very positive impact on MSSU athletics."*

---

Bob Laptad,

*Lions fan and Lionbacker since 1969*

In the past decade, Greim has built a respectable reputation in the area. Bob Laptad has been a Lions fan and Lionbacker since 1969 and enjoys listening to Greim.

"The Voice of the Lions is very important to the community," Laptad said. "With a lot of people around here, that's their primary touch to Southern athletics. When you listen to him, you're getting the best out there. Kevin Greim has had a very positive impact on MSSU athletics. There is no limit to what he has contributed. He is a real crackerjack, a real outstanding young man, and he's fantastic at what he does."

— Heather Carlton, '11



Left, after a redshirt year in 2009, Brandon Williams, sophomore defensive lineman, was first team All-MIAA, had 50 tackles, and led the MIAA with nine sacks.

Center, Nick Teer, senior defensive lineman, had 44 tackles this season.

Right, Amelia Judge, senior middle blocker, led the MIAA in blocks this season.

— Photos by Mike Gullett

# It's a wrap ... Fall teams secure honors

## Football (4-7)

The football team had another successful showing on the All-MIAA squad as nine different Lions earned honors, including first-teamer Brandon Williams. Williams was also an All-Region and All-American pick after he led the Lions and the MIAA in sacks with nine and ranked 21st nationally in both sacks and tackles for a loss. He had a memorable game earlier in the season when he helped the Lions sack the Missouri Western quarterbacks eight times, picking up three of his own in that game. On the season, Williams had 50 tackles, with 17 for a loss of 9 yards, three pass breakups, six quarterback hurries and one forced fumble.

Senior defensive back Justin Cowper became a four-time All-MIAA selection with a second-team nod, while junior center Ian Saxton also earned second-team honors.

The Lions picked up their second win in a row over in-state rival Missouri Western with a 23-6 victory. Two of Southern's losses were by just three points, and in three other games, the Lions were within two scores of their opponents.

## Volleyball (18-14)

Volleyball saw an increase of five more wins overall and two more in conference play as coach Chris Willis had his Lions in the regional hunt all season, finishing

ninth in the South Central Regional Poll and just outside of the NCAA Playoffs.

Ashlee Russell had a stellar senior campaign, earning All-Conference, All-Region and All-American honors. Rachel Olinsky joined Russell on the All-Region team, while Amelia Judge joined both Olinsky and Russell on the All-MIAA squad.

A four-year starter for the Lions, Russell is 10th all-time on the career kills list at Southern, and all-total, she has amassed 1,024 kills, 127 aces, 751 digs and 182 blocks. Judge was a four-year starter and emerged as the best blocker in the MIAA this season. She ranked 34th in Division II in blocking, and her 103 block assists

ranked fifth all-time in a single season at Southern. Her career totals of 279 total blocks and 250 block assists ranked ninth and third all-time.

## Cross-country

Both the men's and women's cross-country teams had successful campaigns that went deep into the postseason.

The women placed second in the MIAA meet and qualified for their fourth-straight trip to the NCAA Division II National meet with a third-place finish at the Regional Meet. Both senior Silvia Pineda and sophomore Marlee Tegenkamp earned All-Region honors, while the pair, as well as freshman Rachel Schrader, were named All-MIAA. The team placed 16th at the NCAA National meet. Also at that meet, senior Victoria Kline was named the NCAA's Elite 88 Award winner. The award goes to the athlete with the top GPA at the national meet.

The men placed second in the MIAA meet, as well, with senior Jarkko Jarvenpaa and freshman Viktor Kuk earning All-MIAA honor. Kuk was named the league's Freshman of the Year. Jarvenpaa was fourth in the meet, with Kuk placing sixth.

The Lions placed eighth as a team at the Regional Meet, but Jarvenpaa earned All-Region honors and qualified for the National Race with a fifth-place finish at the Regional Meet.

## Soccer (5-8-5)

The soccer squad saw major improvements in the 2010 season over the 2009 campaign under new head coach Alese Woolard; the Lions came away with a four-

Left, Sarah Evers, senior midfielder-forward, finished the season with two assists.

Center, Silvia Pineda, senior, earned All-Region honors in cross-country.

Right, Jarkko Jarvenpaa, senior, qualified for the national race after placing fifth at regionals. — Photos by Mike Gullett



game improvement overall at 5-8-5 and a five-game improvement in conference at 5-6-5 in MIAA play.

The offense improved in its goal average from 0.88 per game to 0.98, and the defense cut its goals against average in half, going from 2.06 to 1.18 per game. The offense continued to improve in other areas, as shots

per game increased from 8.4 in 2009 to 11.2 in the 2010 season.

Defense in the goal was key, as junior Randi Russell sparked a 19 goal against difference in the net. Junior Danai Nofitz finished the season leading the Lions with four goals, and junior Shannon Kuhn finished second on the squad with three. Sophomore

Corrine Tebbs finished with the team lead in assists with three, while Kuhn and senior Sarah Evers finished with two each. Russell logged more than 107 minutes in the net for the Lions, giving up 22 goals with 91 saves and five shutouts.

— Justin Maskus, Director, Sports Information and Shaun Buck, '11



# Lions notebook

## SouthernFest '11 set for July at Downstream Casino Resort

MSSU Athletics is excited to host the third annual SouthernFest celebration. SouthernFest '11 will take place on July 28 and 29 with the Lion Pride Dinner and Auction to be held at the Downstream Casino Resort's Pavilion on Thursday night, and the Rod Smith Green & Gold Golf Classic to be held at Eagle Creek Golf Course on Friday.

Tickets to the dinner-auction will be \$40 and playing spots in the golf tournament are \$125 for individuals and \$500 for a four-person team. Various sponsorship levels are also available.

Registration brochures were mailed in March, and registration will be available at [www.mssulions.com](http://www.mssulions.com).

MSSU Athletics also encourages fans to donate an item to the live or silent auction.

Information on auction donations will be available in the brochure and online. All auction item donations and a portion of all sponsorships are tax deductible.

Missouri Southern wishes to thank our SouthernFest title partner, Downstream Casino Resort, and our supporting partners Arvest Bank, Beimdiek Insurance, Contractors' Equipment Company and Hiland Dairy.

## Baseball, softball postseason tournaments begin in May

Fans in the Kansas City area will be able to catch MIAA postseason action at the MIAA Softball Championships, May 5-7, in Overland Park, Kansas, and the MIAA Baseball Championships, May 12-15, at Community America

Ballpark at the Legends in KC. For more information on these events, go online to [www.mssulions.com](http://www.mssulions.com) or to [www.themiaa.com](http://www.themiaa.com).

## Lions' Adams enters spotlight with 360 dunk this season

Jason Adams' smooth 360 jam was named a Top 10 Play on ESPN Sports-Center. Adams made the 360 fast-break dunk against Emporia State on January 5. The play was also selected as a 2011 Dunk of the Year nominee, according to Intersport.

The 2011 Dunk of the Year was wholly determined by fan voting, and the winner was announced on a one-hour "Dunks of the Year" special, which aired on ABC April 2.

Each week for eight weeks, four college dunk videos were released at the Dunks of the Year fan page on Facebook. During Week 4 in early February, Adams competed against Kentucky's Terrence Jones, Indiana State's Dwayne Lathan, and Washington's Isaiah Thomas.

## Women secure Sonic point with third-place finish at UCM

Women's track and field finished third and secured the Sonic Trophy Series Point February 27 in the final day of the 2011 MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships at the University of Central Missouri, with 73 team points, besting PSU by 23 points. Lincoln won the team title with 113 points, followed by Central Missouri with 81.

Ashley Bunch secured a title in the 3K, and Lisa Vengels placed second in the high jump, earning All-MIAA

status for both. Nicole Green was fourth and Kylie Cornman was eighth in the shot put.

Olga Bulgurova and Carita Riutta were fifth and sixth in the 800-meter. Rachel Schrader was fourth in the mile, while Jasmin Hughes placed sixth in the 200-meter.

## Juergens wins pole vault, team finishes seventh overall at UCM

Michael Juergens picked up a provisional and won the pole vault in the final day of the 2011 MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships at the University of Central Missouri.

The men finished in seventh in the overall team standings as host Central Missouri took home the team title.

Juergens also earned All-MIAA status. Raymond Woldtvedt placed seventh in the event. Kevin Wright placed seventh in the 400-meter, and Viktor Kuk was ninth in the 800-meter. Jake Benton was 11th in the 3K, and the 4x440-yard team of Wright, Clark Tanksley, Zach Reece and Dustin Roofener placed fifth.

## Volleyball coach resigns to take position at D-I Davidson College

Head volleyball coach Chris Willis announced his resignation, effective March 4, in order to take the head coaching position at Division I Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina.

He returns to Davidson after previously serving as an assistant coach with the school from 1995-97.

— From staff reports

# Lions lose long-time friend, Wendell Redden

Wendell Redden, 77, one of the most Green & Gold Lions ever, former long-time sports editor of the *Joplin Globe*, and Missouri Southern Hall of Famer, died February 17, 2011, at his home after a long illness. He was born October 26, 1933, in Fort Scott, Kansas, to Bill and Myrtle Redden. He grew up in Fort Scott and Pittsburg, before moving to Joplin, Missouri. He graduated in 1951 from Joplin High School.

Redden began working for the sports department at the *Joplin Globe* in 1950, while he was a junior in high school, and was hired in 1951, as an assistant sports editor to sports editor Porter Whittich. He assumed sports editor duties for the *Globe* in 1952.

During his newspaper career, he covered events including the opening game of the Kansas City Athletics season in 1955, when the team moved from Philadelphia; the Arkansas-Texas football game for the national championship in 1969; many Big Eight Conference football games in addition to Southwest Conference games at Arkansas; participated in the Big Eight Conference Skywriters tour of football camps for 10 years, interviewing many players who went on to professional careers; covered Missouri Southern's national championship football team in 1972; and covered several Joplin

High School (Parkwood and Memorial) championship teams.

After his retirement from the *Globe* in 1996, he worked for the MSSU Sports Information Department, where he helped produce several award-winning football and basketball press guides. He also announced MSSU baseball games at Joe Becker Stadium.

He was tournament director for Golden Gloves, was involved with the pee wee baseball school, and coached youth baseball. He was president of the board of the Joplin Boys Club, a Special Olympics volunteer and a founding member of the Joplin Sports Authority.

Redden was a member of Byers Avenue United Methodist Church, where he served on several church boards, sang in the choir and volunteered as a Sunday School teacher.

His many honors include the Man and Boy Award from Boys Club of America, Optimist of the Year by the Noonday Optimist Club of Joplin, and member of the Missouri and Joplin Bowling Halls of Fame, the Missouri Southern Athletic Hall of Fame, the Joplin Sports Hall of Fame and the MSSU Regional Media Hall of Fame. He received proclamations from the Missouri General Assembly for his accomplishments in the



community and work in the newspaper industry, and won a number of writing awards. Redden Field in Joplin is named in his honor.

Redden married the former Susan Roudybush, a news reporter for the *Joplin Globe*. He is survived by his wife; sons, William Redden and wife, Karen, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and Tim Redden and wife, Janice, Carl Junction, Missouri; grandsons, Spencer Redden and Parker Redden; granddaughter, Katie Redden; and great-grandchild, Noah Redden.

# Grigsby enjoyed 46-year career with KC Chiefs

Bill Grigsby, 89, of Parkville, Missouri, died February 26, 2011, at his home surrounded by his family.

The nationally known sports broadcaster graduated from Joplin Junior College in 1948. His sports reporting career started in Joplin, Missouri, at WMBH radio and *The Joplin Globe*. He worked in sports play-by-play broadcasting at WMBH, covering rising baseball stars such as Mickey Mantle when he played in Joplin. He was a broadcaster for the University of Kansas radio network and the Kansas City Athletics baseball team. Bill switched to the Kansas City Chiefs in 1963, when the team moved to Kansas City from Dallas, and his signature "Beauuutiful!" began to fill the airwaves.



He did broadcast work for the first Super Bowl in 1967. In addition to play-by-play, his long career with the Chiefs included game-day and pregame shows until his retirement in 2009.

His unmistakable voice was shared with thousands of sports fans throughout his 63-year career, that included cover-

age of nearly every major sports league: professional baseball, basketball, hockey and football. Bill's distinguished career in media earned him honors in the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame. Bill was also named MSSU's Outstanding Alumnus in 1984 and was inducted into the Missouri Southern Regional Media Hall of Fame in 2010. He has been an active member of his community, participating in many civic and charity events throughout the years.

Bill is survived by his wife of 62 years, Frances; his children, James (Kathryn), Paul (Jody), Ann Handelman (Mike), Jane Rivers (Tony), and William (Maria); and nine grandchildren.

# Multifaceted

Alum combines skills in new media format at Delaware newspaper.

**B**ubbling over with confidence, Andre Smith, '10, took to the stage at Missouri Southern's 14th annual Southern Media Showcase last fall.

The MSSU Department of Communication invited Smith to be the keynote speaker at Showcase, an event that recognizes southwest Missouri high school students who enter print and broadcast competitions. Smith, deputy new media editor at *The News Journal*, the state newspaper of Delaware, shared his experiences with the students about how he coordinates sports multimedia content — stories, photos, videos, design and blogs — for the newspaper's online website.

Smith is not new to Southern, though he hasn't set foot on campus since 1999. The native New Yorker first came to Southern in 1995 after being recruited into the football program. Smith's college career took an interesting turn when he entered the field of communications and discovered a flair for journalism. He was faced with having to decide between his love for football or a new opportunity.

"Football was a full-time job; I couldn't do both," said Smith.

He turned to journalism

and two student publications, *The Chart* and *Crossroads: The Magazine*. Though he missed playing football, Smith knew he made the right decision.

"Sometimes you have to sacrifice so that you can do what makes you happy," said Smith.

The multimedia skills required for his position at *The News Journal* and its website, DelawareOnline.com, were not offered when he attended Southern. However, Smith's work with the student publications as well as the campus television station provided a foundation for his career.

"When Andre was at Missouri Southern, we were not living in the age of multimedia as we are today," said Dr. Chad Stebbins, '82, director of the Institute of International Studies at Southern. "It is impressive that so much of what he is doing at the *Journal* is self-taught."

Smith's journalism talents did not go unrecognized by others when he was a Southern student. In 1999, he accepted a job with the *Carthage Press* in Carthage, Missouri. Smith was the newspaper's sports editor, and he decided to put his college degree on hold. After five years, he left Carthage to work for *The Rockford Register Star* in Rockford, Illinois, where he covered the Chicago Cubs and University of Illinois football.

Throughout his career, Smith has had the privilege of interviewing several public figures, including Vice President Joe Biden when he was a U.S. senator from Delaware, Sammy



## DID YOU KNOW?

Andre Smith, '10, deputy new media editor for *The News Journal* in Delaware, was part of a regional Emmy Award-winning team that produced several video packages on Barack Obama and Joe Biden's campaign for president and vice president in 2008.

Smith's multimedia work can be found online at [www.delawareonline.com](http://www.delawareonline.com).

Sosa of the Chicago Cubs, and comedian Bill Cosby. Though content with his achievements, Smith realized he had unfinished business. In 2005, the same year he began working at *The News Journal*, Smith started taking online classes to complete his bachelor's degree.

"Since I was a toddler, I was told education is the most important thing," he said.

Now a father, Smith felt he needed to finish what he started. He wanted to show his son the importance of an education by completing his degree. Smith graduated from Missouri Southern in December 2010.

"Andre was one of the most popular students we ever had work on *The Chart* or *Crossroads*," said Stebbins, who was adviser to *The Chart* when Smith was a student. "His magnetic personality and perseverance draw people in; it is a privilege to know him."

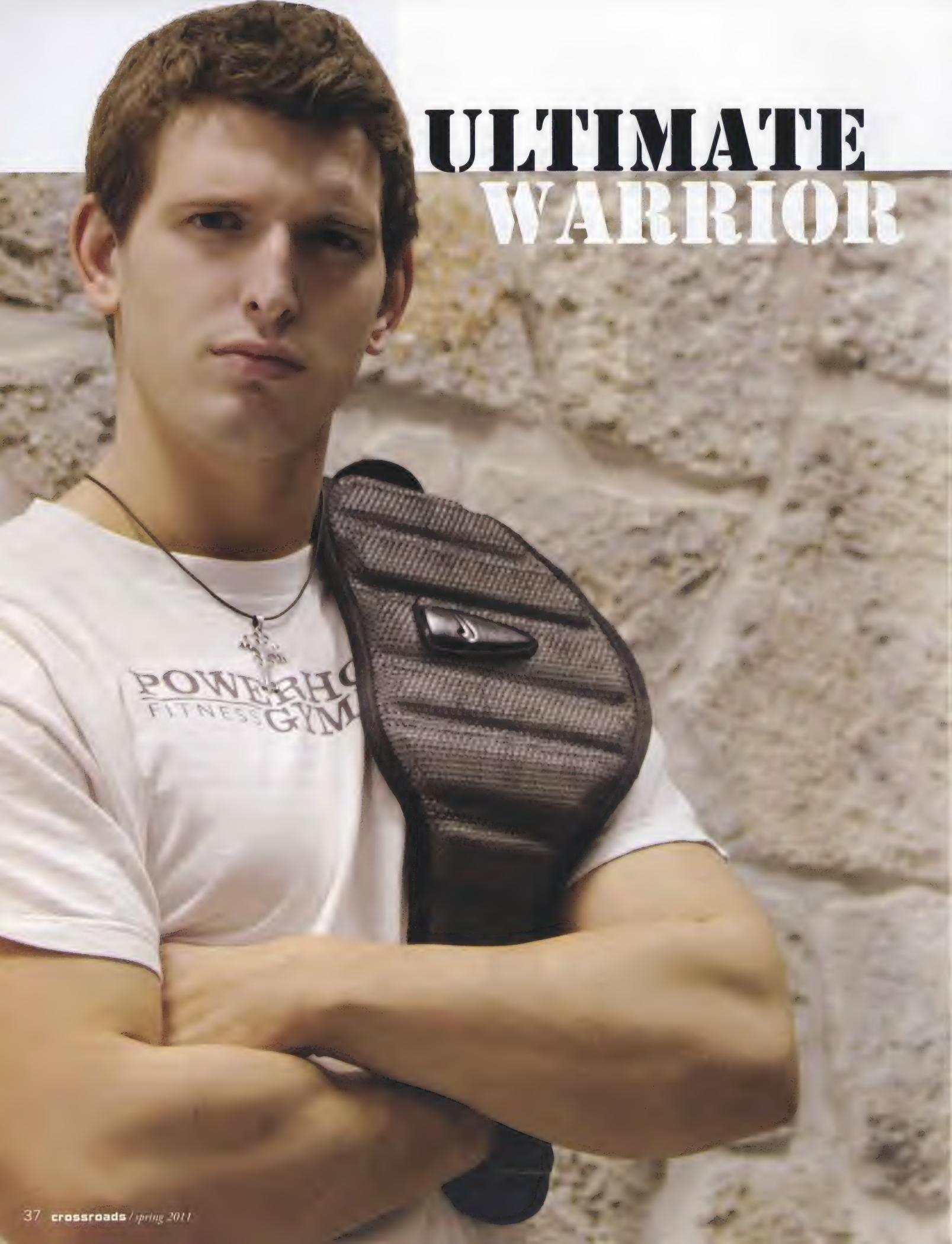
Smith attributes his success to his faith in God and a positive attitude.

"Whether I deserved it or not, he (God) set it up," said Smith.

— Rebecca Hartmann, '11

Andre Smith, '10, speaks at the 2010 Southern Media Showcase on November 4 in Corley Auditorium. — Photo by Alexandra Nicolas, '11

# ULTIMATE WARRIOR



POWERHOUSE  
FITNESS GYM

# From Larry to Lars, student's alter ego enters the ring.

**B**lack elbow pads, check. Black knee pads, check. Black socks, check. Black Speedo, check. Giant, inflated ego, check.

"Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the main event!"

These sights and sounds are just another Saturday for Missouri Southern student Larry Mitchell, and these are all it takes to transform him into his wrestling alter ego.

Mitchell, senior mass communications major, spends every weekend in front of a screaming crowd, but he doesn't play for the Lions. Mitchell is an independent professional wrestler for Metro Pro Wrestling based in Kansas City, Kansas.

"I got out of the Air Force and wanted to do something big; I never wanted to have a regular job," said Mitchell, who wrestles under the name Lars Mander-

son. While growing up in Monett and Sarcoxie, Mitchell idolized the professional wrestlers of the day. At age 5, he watched a wrestling match at the Shrine Mosque in Springfield, Missouri, and was hooked.

"I saw Sting and Red Flare, and I never thought I would be big enough, but now I'm 6-4, and I wanted to try it out," Mitchell said.

Barry Linduff, '05, Mitchell's training partner, is also passionate about local wrestling.

"The great thing about wrestlers is that we don't want to grow up," Linduff said. "We want to go out on the weekends and be superheroes, dress up in tights and play games."

Linduff wrestles under the name Mr. Saturday Night and was an inspiration for Mitchell even before he became his mentor.

*"The great thing about wrestlers is that we don't want to grow up. We want to go out on the weekends and be superheroes, dress up in tights and play games."*

"When I moved back here, I wanted to move to Eldon to start wrestling, but my mom brought me a profile of a professional wrestler from Joplin," said Mitchell.

"Then I saw him at the gym where I work; I introduced myself, and we started training together."

Finding a balance between school and wrestling can be difficult, said Mitchell, who also works as a trainer at Powerhouse Gym in Joplin, Missouri.

He hits the gym by 9 a.m. during the week to squeeze in a workout before clients arrive, then trains until noon. After that, he heads to classes at Southern until 3 p.m. and straight back to Powerhouse to train until 8 p.m. Saturdays are usually spent traveling for shows, leaving Sunday the only day off.

Scheduling isn't the only problem. Even in this theatrical style of wrestling, injuries are common. Mitchell showed up to class one morning with a scratched eye and busted lip from a recent match.

"The worst injury I have had is to my shoulder. I wrestled on it for about six months until I was hardly able to move it. Then I took eight months off and did some rehabilitation work," said Mitchell.

He has also dislocated several fingers, which he attributes to rookies taking moves incorrectly and landing on his hands. "A dislocated finger can be taped, and I can go on with

the match," Mitchell said.

"I'm lucky not to get something that's more serious."

Mitchell also feels fortunate to be able to take classes related to his interest in wrestling.

"I switched to mass communication because it helps with being on TV, but I'm also a theatre minor. It helps with theatrics," Mitchell said.

His time out of the ring may help his career, but Mitchell said this style of wrestling is mostly instinct.

"If you don't catch on early, you'll probably never get it. That's why I was just thrown into it," said Mitchell.

"Like a mother bird pushing her babies out of the nest. Luckily, I didn't die on the way out." **G**

— Elizabeth Flanigan, '11



Larry Mitchell, senior mass communication major at Missouri Southern, demonstrates some of his in-the-ring showmanship. — Photos by Andrew Pavlovic, '11



# Joining the pride

Incoming freshmen receive lessons in finding college success.

**A** college campus can seem exciting. The large buildings make it clear this is no longer a high school. Students walk to classes in school apparel and chat with friends about class schedules. College campuses can seem intimidating for some and others view the next step as an adventure.

Research has shown the first year in college students' lives is crucial: Are they going to pursue a degree at that university, transfer to another school, or just drop out and begin working?

That's why Missouri Southern developed the First-Year Experience program.

"The idea is to help the incoming freshmen feel connected," said Natalie Bruce, coordinator of the First-Year Experience program.

"We want to make sure their needs are met."

First-Year Experience has implemented new and improved activities and classes for incoming first-year students. One of the improved classes is the University Experience 100 course, required for all incoming first-year students. The classes are taught by faculty and staff from many departments on campus, and the instructors are paired with a peer mentor.

"It helps students transition into college while focusing on our school's International Mission. We are trying to broaden a student's perspective of the world," Bruce said.

By focusing on the International Mission, first-year students are required to

attend events held for the themed semesters of a chosen country.

Nathan Hicks, senior political science major, is serving as a peer mentor. He said the FYE program is important.

"This program helps students not only learn the campus but the college life overall. Without the FYE program, students won't be able to fully understand the college experience," Hicks said.

"Students would be lost in a new world and environment. The FYE program is there to make the new students as comfortable as possible and get them excited about college."

The course also helps students develop study skills, learn about campus services and understand the advising and enrollment process.



*Incoming freshmen gather for a class photo on August 24, 2010, on the football field's MSSU logo at Fred G. Hughes Stadium. The students were taking part in Campus Craze and other activities the day before the new fall semester began at Missouri Southern State University. — Photos by Mike Gullett*

## ***“Only one-third of incoming students actually graduate from college. We are trying to change that.”***

Peer mentors are highly skilled students. They must maintain a 3.0 grade-point average and go through an interview process. More than 40 university experience sections are offered each semester, and a peer mentor is paired with each section. Hicks said becoming a peer mentor has helped develop his skills as a leader.

“I decided to become a peer mentor because I felt that I had a lot to offer new incoming students,” he said.

“I am one of those types of students

that likes to keep involved. This involvement has helped me to better develop my leadership skills over the past few years.”

Incoming first-year students are also presented with fun-filled activities. The FYE program hosts first-year exclusive events for fun and relaxation. Two academic workshops also help students succeed in college.

“Only one-third of incoming students actually graduate from college,” Bruce said. “We are trying to change that.”

— Meagan Haring, '11



Fall 2010 was the first First-Year Convocation. First-year students were presented with medallions in a ceremony similar to graduation.

When these students graduate from MSSU, they will trade in their medallions for senior medallions to be worn on graduation day.

## MSSU Alumni Association wins CASE VI Silver Award for event

The Missouri Southern Alumni Association received a Silver Award at the CASE VI Conference held January 9-11, 2011, in Kansas City, Missouri. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education is the professional organization for advancement professionals at all levels who work in alumni relations, communications and marketing, fundraising and other areas.

The award won by the alumni association was for "Alumni Association Special Events" for the grand opening of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center.

The contest included more than 600 entries from colleges and universities, with 190 total awards given.

The opening of the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center is the culmination of a project under way since 2004. Gray, a 1975 graduate of Missouri Southern, is an investor in real estate. A grand opening and tours of the new facility were held last fall.

The Mission Hills Mansion, built in the Spanish motif by Lucius P. "Buck" Buchanan in the early 1920s, is the oldest building on the MSSU campus. It is the permanent home of the MSSU Alumni Association, which raised approximately \$1.8 million for renovation of the structure. Patio bricks, purchased by more than 200 donors, are part of the Board of Governors' Patio at the main entrance.

CASE's membership includes almost 3,400 colleges, universities, independent elementary and secondary schools, and educational associates in 60 countries around the world. Case VI represents the states of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

## Career Services moves to online system for alumni credential files

Starting August 1, 2011, MSSU Career Services will no longer manage alumni credential files. Through a partnership with Interfolio, alumni will now have the convenience of 24-hour access to an online credential management system.

Traditionally, credential files have been paper-based and stored in Career Services, but with Interfolio's secure Web-based system, alumni will be able to compile and distribute credential files for applications to employers and prospective post-grad-



Missouri Southern students Michael Olorunkunle (left), Gemma Amankwah, Agie Mai Jammeh, Aji-Sophie Jeng, Jude Obeto and Oliver Tole perform as the African Six in the "International Idol" talent show held April 8 in Corley Auditorium. The group won third place in the competition, which included talent from Missouri Southern, Crowder College and Thomas Jefferson Day School in Joplin, Missouri. The event was also a fundraiser to collect money for the Red Cross for Japan relief efforts after the March earthquake and tsunami. Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies, says \$2,035 was collected from attendees. Judges for the show were Missouri Southern President Bruce Speck, Crowder College President Alan Marble, and local entertainer Rebecca Luebber. — Willie Brown, '12

uate institutions. For more information, please call Career Services at 417-625-9343 or visit [www.interfolio.com](http://www.interfolio.com).

## Kappa Alpha Chapter receives council awards in Indiana

The Missouri Southern Kappa Alpha Order chapter received several awards, including the Carl Alpert Award for "Most Improved Chapter" in the nation, at the KA Province Council held at Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana.

The chapter also received the "Outstanding Philanthropy" award. Each member of the MSSU chapter averaged 50 hours in philanthropic efforts. The chapter additionally received a national Scholastic Award for having GPA's averaging at or above 2.75 on a 4.0 scale.

## Martin Luther King Day of Service continues giving to community

The success of Missouri Southern's MLK Day of Service continues to inspire students through partnerships with community organizations and participation in national projects. On MLK Day, January 17, students,

faculty and staff at MSSU gave almost 400 hours of service. The economic value of the time contributed to the community by volunteers reached just over \$8,209.

The 162 volunteers worked on 19 projects throughout the community and on campus.

The largest volunteer project, at East Middle School in Joplin, Missouri, involved 53 volunteers, who worked in the library to replace 90 backer boards in the fiction section of the library and place 24,000 "Property of East Middle School" address labels over the old property stamps.

Several student organizations are building on MLK Day success by continuing the partnerships they established. For example, the Community Clinic of Joplin started scheduling patients to see respiratory therapy students in February. The students will run basic tests related to respiratory care.

For the second year, Missouri Southern State University student Kisa Clark's video about MSSU MLK Day of Service is a finalist in the MLK Technology Challenge & Photo Contest.

— From Staff Reports

# Lion Tales

By Heather Carlton, '11

*"They're not just purchasing pictures. They're getting an experience. We offer our clients great images, a great final product, and we have fun and get to know each other in the process."*

*Dale Benfield, '02*

*Missouri Southern alumnus,  
Owner of Benfield Photography*



*Lacie Hansen, of Santa Barbara, California, poses for her bridal portrait in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Bridal portraits have typically been a Southern tradition, but more recently have been expanding into mainstream markets, says Dale Benfield, '02. — Photos courtesy of Dale Benfield*

## DALE BENFIELD

**Who:** Missouri Southern alumnus, mass communications, 2002.

**What:** Owner of Benfield Photography, wedding and portrait photography business, began in Joplin, Missouri, and relocated in 2006 to Fayetteville, Arkansas. Also teaches college-level photography courses.

**How the business started:** I always loved taking pictures, and my camera was constantly connected to my hands. I'm sure this love of photography came from my dad, who had a photography lab and studio for many years. After I graduated high school, all my friends wanted me to take their senior portraits, which built up a pretty nice foundation for my business. I was shooting my own style of pictures — different from a lot of the photographers in the area. As the business grew, previous clients soon wanted wedding photos, as well.

**Secret to Success:** First, many artists are terrible at business. Students and photographers who want to make a career out of photography need to take as many marketing and business classes as they can. Second, a photographer's ability to network is almost always a direct factor in how successful he or she will become. After the move to Arkansas, I connected with wedding planners, florists, other photographers and also conducted workshops for parents on how to photograph their children. Third, charging correct prices will make or break a business. Benfield Photography specializes in high-end clientele, with the average wedding package costing about \$6,000.

**Greatest Challenge:** Expanding the business. Since moving to Arkansas, the company has hired additional staff photographers who shoot under the Benfield Photography umbrella, developed Photoshop actions and templates for other photographers to assist with workflows, and conducted workshops.

**Southern Memories:** All-nighters up in The Chart office rank among the highest. I believe that if you go through school, or life for that matter, doing nothing, you'll be miserable. We're on this planet to connect and engage, and some of the people I've connected with at MSSU are some of the dearest people I've ever met. Maybe the fondest memory was going to Japan for a couple weeks and photographing. Travel is such an essential tool for learning, and the International Mission at MSSU is exceptional.

**For More:** Visit [www.benfieldphotography.net](http://www.benfieldphotography.net).

*Have an entrepreneurial tale to tell? Send Lion Tales information to [Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu](mailto:Alumni.Assoc@mssu.edu) or call 417-659-LION.*

# Celebrating 75 Years of Lion Pride

Mark your calendars now for 2012-13 as the celebration year for Missouri Southern's 75th anniversary. A committee is in place and is busy planning events to commemorate this milestone in our history.

The Missouri Southern Alumni Association is developing a book about the history of the University. This is an exciting project, and we hope you will want to become a part of it. We know you have great stories to share, so tell us in your words, what was your college experience? What was the funniest thing that ever happened to you or what instructor truly inspired you to make you who you are today?

We are attempting to capture stories and photos that can be combined for the book, for Web stories and to share in a variety of ways for MSSU alumni and friends.

Please tell us how you are, how the University defined you in your career path, or what lifelong friends you have made from your years with us. Stories can be as long as 750 words, or you can share a remembrance or anecdote.

Missouri Southern has a great story to tell, and we want you to help share this



story. Please help us spread the word to anyone you think could make an interesting contribution to our book. You can contact me at the Alumni Association, 417-625-9355, or by email, [pound-l@mssu.edu](mailto:pound-l@mssu.edu), with your story ideas or contributions.

If you have photos to share, please include as much identification as possible of names, places and details. Photos will be scanned and returned to you promptly.

We understand the value of a photo.

Please send your story and photos either by email to [pound-l@mssu.edu](mailto:pound-l@mssu.edu) or by regular mail to: Lee Elliff Pound, '86, alumni director, MSSU 75th Anniversary Historic Book, 3950 East Newman Road, Joplin, MO 64801.

We look forward to sharing your walks down memory lane!

— Lee Elliff Pound '86

## Stories, remembrances, and anecdotes I want to share of Joplin Junior College, Missouri Southern State College, or Missouri Southern State University

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Connection to Missouri Southern \_\_\_\_\_

Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any photos to include? (Description and cutlines, please)

YES

NO



ORDER YOUR  
BRICK TODAY

There's still time to make a tax-deductible donation or purchase a gift in honor of a loved one, acknowledge a graduate or recognize a family member. Become a permanent part of this project with a gift of \$100 per brick. You can cement your legacy and support the MSSU Alumni Association directly at the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. Your contribution will include your inscription on a premium-quality brick. Each engraved character will be filled with black epoxy for legibility.



## CLASSNOTES

1984 **Debi Durham**, '84, president, Siouxland Chamber of Commerce and The Siouxland Initiative, Sioux City, Iowa, was named to head the Iowa Department of Economic Development. In 2003, Debi was named to the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame.

1987 **Lance Adams**, '87, is manager of ambulatory electronic health records for Catholic Health Initiatives. Lance and **Jill**, '87, Adams have two sons attending Missouri Southern, Landon and Jansen Adams.

1989 **Jimmy D. Morgan**, '89, is an emergency physician at Freeman Health System and is also the EMS medical director for METS, NCAD and Joplin Fire Department.

1995 **Robert Claypool**, '95, is senior vice president at First Newton National Bank in Newton, Iowa.

1996 **Ron Fauss**, '96, has been named the executive director of the Foster Parent Association of Missouri, a volunteer position that helps with issues facing foster parenting.

1997 **Cameo (Harrington) Gerdes**, '97, is the assistant general manager at Northpark Mall and was named one of the Missouri Jaycees' Outstanding Young Missourians at the state convention in January 2011.

**David Russell**, '97, is a senior sales consultant with Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

**Shane VanDalsem**, '97, is a college professor in the finance department at the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and **Jennifer (Francisco) VanDalsem**, '96, home-schools their two children, Daniel, born in 2004, and Mia, born in 2006.

2000 **Emily Petty**, '00, is the director of external affairs at National Women's Business Council.

2001 **Carroll M. Graham**, Ed.D., '01, is an assistant professor, human resource development & performance technologies, at Indiana State University.

2002 **Serena (Lee) Brown**, '02, is an accountant for Northwest Florida State College.

**Tracy (Branz) Wentz**, '02, is a registered nurse at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

2003 **Jeffery Woodmansee**, '03, is information services specialist at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Bowen School of Law Library, in Little Rock, Arkansas.

2005 **Alice (Herbst) Claypool**, '05, is the executive assistant to the CFO at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

2007 **Krista Stark**, '07, is the director and development specialist for the Carver Birthplace Association.

2009 **Jessica Selby Tallman**, '09, is a student at Cleveland Chiropractic College.

**Dara Frerer Smith**, '09, is the new continuing education coordinator for NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry.

— ClassNotes reports from MSSU Alumni Association office

## FUTURELIONS

Bethany (Frerer) Filakouridis, '08, and John Filakouridis became the proud parents of Sophia Filakouridis, on April 10, 2010.

Melissa Husby Cupich, '04, and Rob Cupich became the proud parents of Lucianne Claire Cupich, on November 14, 2009.

Angela Westphal Marshall, '09, and Chance Marshall welcomed Weston Marshall on December 16, 2010.

Stephanie Doerr Moxley, '04, and Nathan Moxley became the proud parents of Tyler Moxley, on November 30, 2010.

Noelle (Klapp) Witte, '07, and Tyler Witte, '06, became proud parents of Dylan Witte on November 23, 2010.

## LIONLOVE

Dara Frerer, '09, and Preston Smith, '08, were married on July 31, 2010.



Have something you want to share with your fellow alumni?  
Send us your information.

Missouri Southern Alumni Association  
3950 East Newman Road  
Joplin, MO 64801  
or via email, [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu)



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into the search field at  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

## 1960s

**Karen Drouin- Hollingsworth**, '67  
January 6, 2011

## 1980s

**Michael Lee Beattie**, '82  
December 26, 2010  
**Kimberly McCorkle Adams**, '85  
January 24, 2011  
**Michael Eugene Resa**, '88  
February 19, 2011

## FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

**Michael E. Morris**  
February 11, 2011  
**Joyce Lea O'Malley**  
February 4, 2011  
**Josephine Shiner**  
February 7, 2011

Memoriam is current as of March 1, 2011. For additions in the next issue, send an e-mail to [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu) or call 417-659-LION.

# **crossroads**

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# HOME COMING 2011

For more information, please contact the  
Missouri Southern Alumni Association at  
417-625-9355 or [AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu](mailto:AlumniAssoc@mssu.edu).



**Save the date!**

Missouri Southern's Fall Homecoming,  
September 30 through October 1, 2011